



# THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,707

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 1998

(R50P) 45p

## NEWS SECTION

England  
send sick-note  
to Sweden  
7 PAGES OF SPORT

## LISTINGS SUPPLEMENT

INSIDE: THE ONLY  
OFFICIAL UCAS GUIDE  
TO UNIVERSITY PLACES

## BROADSHEET REVIEW



The lady's not  
for turning in  
PLUS COMMENT.  
ARTS, DESIGN & LAW

# Branson: I lost lottery after refusing to fund the Tories

RICHARD BRANSON yesterday indicated that he lost the contract to run the National Lottery because he refused to make a donation to the Conservative Party.

BY STEVE BOGGAN AND JEREMY WARNER

dropped that he would receive "favours" - possibly honours - if he made a donation.

Mr Branson received the dinner invitation via a senior party fundraiser who, during a telephone call, claimed to be "close to the director-general of Oflot" - the lottery regulator.

He said: "I had this bizarre call during the process of the lottery just before the decision was made. It was from a senior

fundraiser for the Tory party who asked if I wanted to have dinner with a senior person in the party."

Asked whether that figure was Mr Major, Mr Branson confirmed it was. He continued: "I wrote back and said I did not think it was a good idea. I felt it would be invidious at that time. It was an unnecessary call."

"There was something else during the conversation from the fundraiser when I was told that the caller knew the director-general of Oflot very well. I

was uncomfortable with that." However, Mr Branson said he felt the fundraiser, whom he refused to name, was acting without the knowledge of Mr Major.

"I like John Major," he said. "I do not think he would have behaved like that. I thought he was being used."

There was widespread surprise four years ago when Mr Branson's non-profit-making lottery bid lost out to Camelot. The Virgin tycoon revealed last year how Guy Snowdon, chairman of G/Tech, part of the Camelot

consortium, had offered him a bribe to drop out of the race, but he famously refused. He won a libel case against Mr Snowdon in June this year.

Mr Branson, 47, said he was regularly offered hints of honours in return for donations. "It was fundraisers who approached, never ministers - they always put people between them," he said.

Asked whether he had ever been explicitly offered a knighthood or another honour, Mr Branson replied: "It was never

that clear cut. Everything was done by innuendo. It was made clear that if I scratched their back they would scratch mine."

"It was made clear that either you were a friend of the party or you were not a friend of the party... Obviously, friends would benefit. Clearly donating was important."

Mr Branson is arguably Britain's most successful businessman but he has never been honoured - even though he is expected to be recognised within the next couple of years.

Labour turned down his nomination by the Tory leader, William Hague, for the last New Year's Honours List.

Mr Branson's book, *Losing My Virginity: The Autobiography*, is published next week, but he said yesterday that he could not recall whether he had named the fundraisers who hinted at favours.

"Hopefully, the new Conservative Party will show they are above this kind of thing," he said. "Whichever party is in power, they get the money and they do

not want to change the system, but it has to be changed."

He said he believed state funding of parties should be considered. "At the very least, all donations should be instantly published," he said.

A spokesman for the Tory party said: "The Conservative Party never accepts donations with strings attached and has never done so."

Branson's battle; Honours for favours, page 2  
Leading article, Review, page 3

## Clinton's message of peace to Omagh

THE PEOPLE of the battered town of Omagh yesterday put aside their grief for a day, turning out in their thousands to extend a warm welcome to Bill Clinton.

The beleaguered American President's visit to the County Tyrone town, with Hillary Clinton and Tony and Cherie Blair, was the focal point of a one-day visit which emphasised continuing US support for the peace process.

The two couples spent a harrowing hour in an Omagh gymnasium meeting relatives of some of the 28 people killed by a bomb planted by the so-called Real IRA earlier this month. They also met many of the injured, including a young girl who had both eyes covered with bandages and a boy with bandaged hands. Some had been released from hospital for the day.

The Clintons and the Blairs were said to have been deeply moved by the experience. Tony Blair's spokesman said he had found the courage and determination of the people inspirational, adding: "Just as on the Prime Minister's previous visit to Omagh, many of the people told him to keep going with the peace process."

This sentiment summed up the message delivered by Mr Clinton in a number of speeches during the day. He said of the chance of peace: "Do not let it slip away. It will not come again in our lifetimes. Give your leaders the support they need to make the hard, but necessary decisions."

"There will be hard roads ahead. The terror in Omagh was not the last bomb of the Troubles. It was the opening shot of a vicious attack on the peace. The question is not whether there will be more bombs and more attempts to undo with violence the verdict of the ballot box. There will be."

Speaking from the same platform, the Prime Minister called on local political leaders to take risks "even when close supporters criticise" and to show courage and imagination. This was viewed as directed towards

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland Correspondent

the Ulster Unionists' leader, David Trimble, some of whose colleagues are expressing opposition to moves towards a meeting with Sinn Féin's president, Gerry Adams.

This key political set-piece of the day, at Belfast's recently built Waterfront Hall, brought a moment which might be characterised either as a confrontation or the beginnings of engagement. In what was seen as a tough speech, Mr Trimble declared: "I say to those who are crossing the bridge from terror to democracy. Every move you make towards peace, I welcome. If you take the road of peace and do so in genuine good faith, you will find me a willing leader in that journey."

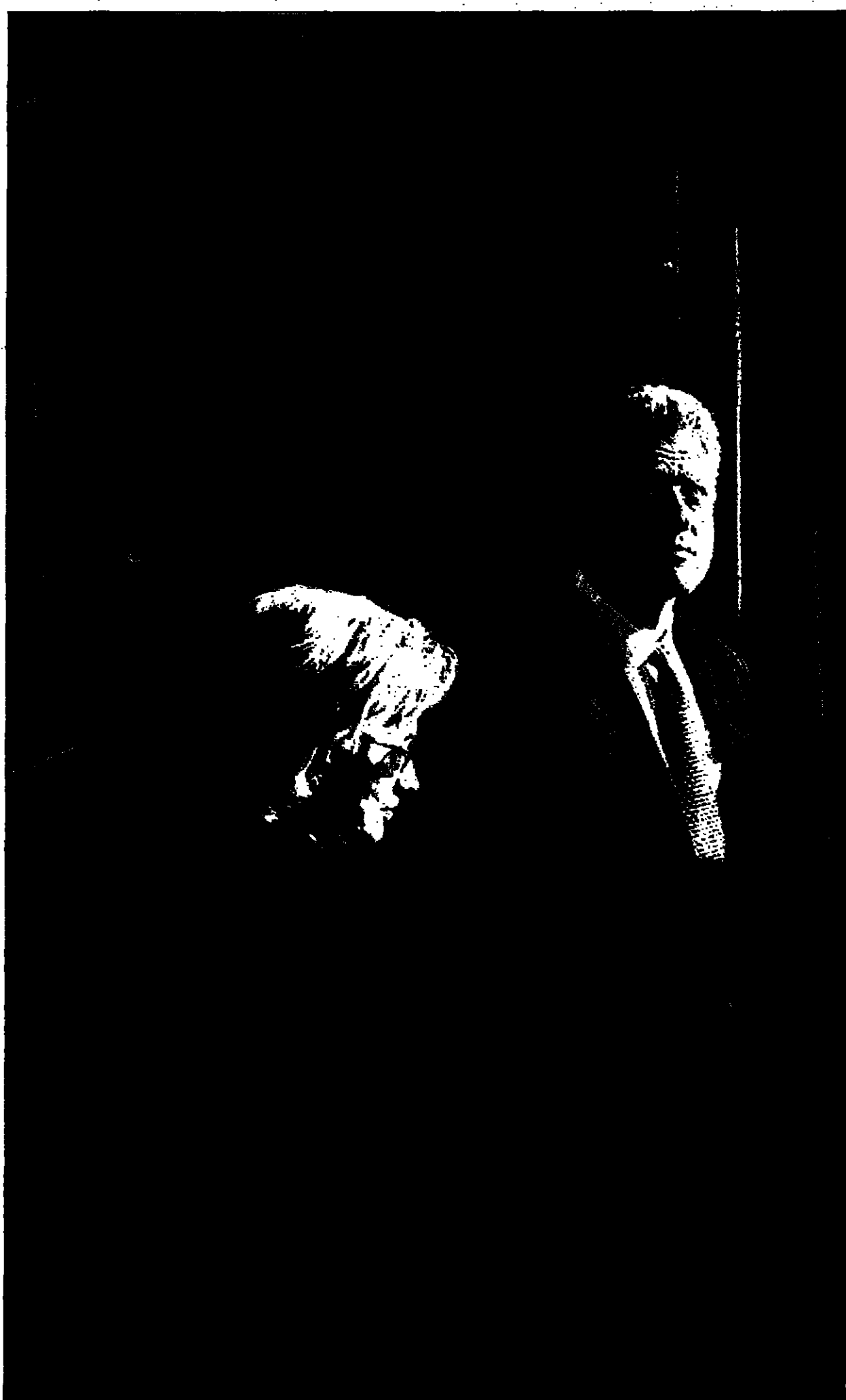
He also warned, however, that if the war was really over there could be no justification for holding on to illegal weapons, saying he could not reconcile seeking positions in government with a failure to dismantle terrorist organisations.

As he delivered these strictures he repeatedly glanced in the direction of Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness of Sinn Féin, who were seated in the front row of the audience. The occasion was thus one of visual, if not yet verbal engagement.

Earlier, Mr Clinton met members of the Belfast Assembly, which he commended as a key part of the Good Friday Agreement and the peace process. He was afterwards to be seen in less formal mood, taking tea with the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, and Mr Trimble.

In Omagh, Hillary Clinton laid flowers at a plaque which has been temporarily placed on a stone plinth close to the spot where the bomb exploded. The Clintons and Blairs walked through Market Street, spending longer than had been expected meeting local people.

Real IRA told to disband; A troubled visit, page 8  
Terror Bill debate, page 8



President Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary, surveying bomb-damaged shops in Omagh

J Scott Applewhite

## 229 dead as jet crashes into Atlantic

SWISSAIR PILOTS issued the ultimate distress call "Pan, Pan, Pan" as they fought vainly to keep the crippled flight 111 aloft, late on Wednesday night and made it to the airport in Halifax, airline officials said yesterday.

But their time ran out 10 minutes too early as the MD-11 jet - many of its passengers already dressed in life jackets as smoke poured into the cockpit - plunged into the Atlantic off the coast of the eastern Canadian province Nova Scotia.

The plane had been bound from New York to Geneva with 229 people on board, including 214 passengers.

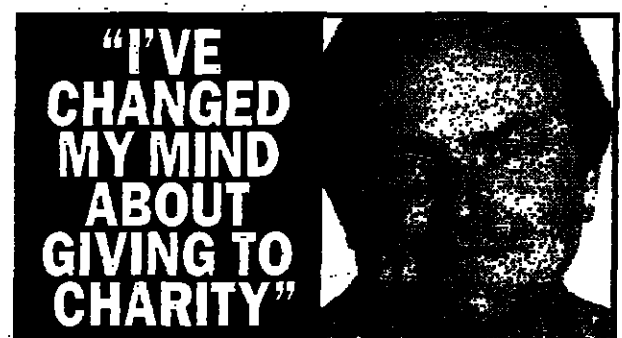
While some 40 bodies had been recovered last night, al-

BY ANDREW MARSHALL  
In Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia

most all hope of finding survivors of the crash had been abandoned. It was the worst disaster in Switzerland's aviation history and echoes the crash of TWA 800 off Long Island just over two years ago, which had also left New York bound for Europe.

As distraught relatives and friends of those on board the MD-11, three-engined aircraft gathered in airports in both New York and Geneva, investigators last night said they had no indication that the accident had been the work of terrorists.

Last flight of the "UN shuttle", page 3



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Children as young as four may be grouped in school according to their ability

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## FOREIGN

Taliban militiamen in Afghanistan reportedly massacred thousands of Shia Muslims

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## BUSINESS

Jobs may be at risk after Shell and Texaco merge their refining and marketing business

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## SPORT

The Premier League is to talk to a group behind plans for a European super league

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Head teachers have come out strongly against plans for a new criminal offence to outlaw sexual relations between people in positions of trust and children aged 16 or 17. Page 5

**New code for mushroom pickers**  
Britain's first code of conduct for pickers of wild mushrooms is published today, calling on people to act responsibly, show restraint, and leave some behind. Page 7

**End for Scots feudal landowners**  
The lairds and public bodies who own vast tracts of Scotland will be put on notice today that their feudal grip is to be broken. Page 9

## FOREIGN NEWS

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**French interior minister in coma**  
Jean-Pierre Chevènement, interior minister in the Jospin government, is critically ill after suffering a heart attack during routine surgery. Page 11

**Schröder beats Kohl in debate**  
A narrow win on points for the challenger was the verdict after Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Gerhard Schröder slugged it out in a two-hour debate. Page 12

**Yeltsin weakens as rouble falls**  
Boris Yeltsin returned to the negotiating table in an effort to end his stand-off with parliament amid a worsening crisis that saw the rouble fall to a new low. Page 13

## BUSINESS NEWS

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**BNFL takes £34m Magnox loss**  
Nuclear reprocessing company BNFL took a £34m hit from its newly acquired Magnox business, but said it would be a long-term asset to the group. Page 14

**C&A goes for a corporate refit**  
C&A, one of Britain's most secretive retailers, is to overhaul its operations in an attempt to stem the loss of market share and transform the company into a more resilient force on the high street. Page 15

## SPORTS NEWS

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**Blackburn to sell Sherwood**  
Blackburn Rovers are expected to sell Tim Sherwood to Tottenham Hotspur provided the London club increase their offer to £5m. Page 21

**Lloyd censured for comments**  
David Lloyd, the England cricket coach, was severely reprimanded for making controversial comments about the bowling action of the Sri Lankan spinner Muthiah Muralitharan. Page 26

## FRIDAY REVIEW

26-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

**Suzanne Moore**  
'A year ago we thought if the monarchy didn't modernise it would be finished. A year later it has made concessions only in its style, not in its substance.' Page 3

**David Macaulay**  
'We have a culture that endorses drugs. Put that together with an almost unlimited supply of drugs on the streets of Britain and is it any wonder that we see more experimentation and a lowering of the age of use?' Page 4

**Simon Davies**  
'The technology that generates and distributes kiddie porn images is the same technology that processes the traffic on political discussion groups.' Page 5

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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT  
RECYCLING  
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of  
the raw material for this newspaper  
in the first half of 1998

Cash for favours: Branson's Lottery claims are latest in a line of political sleaze charges

## Lottery gamblers who lost

THE FIREWORKS began to erupt over Tower Bridge one November morning in 1994 when the National Lottery was launched, and still they explode.

Camelot had beaten its rival bidders, led by Richard Branson, and had won the rights to milk the money cow. But since then Camelot has staggered from one publicity disaster to the next - many of them caused by Branson, who has refused to take his defeat lying down.

The real problems for Camelot, then part run by the American lottery specialist GTEch, began in December 1995, when a critical BBC Panorama programme coincided with a Westminster select committee interrogation of the Lottery's regulator, Peter Davis of Oflot.

The star interviewee of the Panorama programme, Richard Branson, claimed that Guy Snowden, the chief executive officer of GTEch, had offered him a bribe aimed, said Branson, for him to stay out of the race for the lottery licence.

Meanwhile Mr Davis admitted to MPs that he, and his deputy, had accepted free flights on GTEch corporate jets during a visit to America in October 1994. Mr Davis further admitted to staying at the home of a GTEch director.

Guy Snowden took the plunge and issued a libel writ against Branson - a risky venture, given Branson's public popularity at the time. Branson characteristically went for a heavy counter-attack, issuing a writ against Snowden.

In February of this year the case came to court. The result of the contest between the plausible and suave 47-year-old Branson and the overweight 53-year-old Snowden, who looked like a bit player in *Goodfellas*, was fairly predictable. Snowden was sensationally ousted by Branson and left to pick up an estimated £2m bill for legal

BY PAUL LASHMAR

costs when a jury decided he did try to bribe the Virgin tycoon.

In true Branson style, everyone's favourite tycoon celebrated with champagne and he announced that all his £100,000 libel damages against the American lottery magnate would go to charity. He declared: "We said from the outset that we would place our trust in the judgement of a jury where all the evidence surrounding these events would be heard in public and under oath."

The Heritage Minister Chris Smith and Lottery regulator Peter Davis demanded Snowden's resignation immediately after the High Court verdict. Within minutes, he said he was quitting. Outside court Mr Snowden said: "I think that probably standing down from the Camelot board is the right thing to do at this point."

In the fallout the largely discredited Oflot chief Peter Davis was required to fall on his sword by Chris Smith.

The lottery has become a personal issue with Branson, and he is determined to get the concession. He has even offered to run it so all the profits go to charity. He claims: "The lottery is a licence to print money. One of the interesting facts to emerge from the case was that those running the lottery are extracting a billion pounds in profits both as shareholders and suppliers to it - a billion that could have gone to charity."

Now Branson's magic touch looks rather more tainted than it did two years ago. His attempts to balloon round the world failed. Virgin's venture into railways has been nothing short of a publicity disaster - Virgin features as the most unreliable service. The lottery contract comes up again in 2001, but it is unlikely that Branson will not bid.



Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin, with Lord Young after failing with their bid to run the National Lottery

## Ancient trade in selling titles

ALLEGATIONS OF the sale of political honours and the buying of political favours are not new.

Monarchs down the ages have been accused of selling baronetcies to raise cash and David Lloyd George, the Liberal Prime Minister and social reformer, was widely suspected of offering peerages and other honours in return for huge sums of money.

Mr Lloyd George was not a wealthy man and the Liberal Party machine remained in the

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

hands of H H Asquith after he was manoeuvred out of power by Lloyd George in 1916.

The honours scandal helped bring about his downfall as Prime Minister in 1922, although much of the money raised from selling honours went into Mr Lloyd George's personal political fund, and helped to sustain him during the 1920s and 1930s. Prime ministers have often

been accused of rewarding their friends in honours lists, most famously in Harold Wilson's resignation list in 1976.

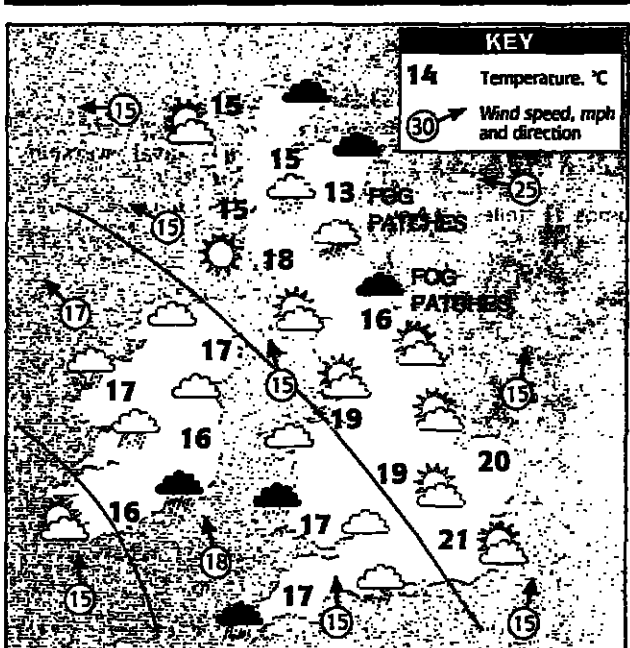
There was no suggestion that Wilson sold honours but a new wave of such allegations surfaced during the Tories' 18 years in power after 1979.

The Tories denied the charges, but the Labour opposition made hay as the "sleaze factor" became a powerful weapon which helped to tarnish the Tories' reputation. Tony Blair won last year's

general election after repeatedly pledging to "clean up" British politics. But Labour quickly found that the boot was on the other foot.

A list of Labour donors published last weekend prompted Tory allegations that Mr Blair had rewarded party benefactors with peerages and places on public bodies. They include David Sainsbury, former head of the supermarket chain, who has been made a peer and appointed a Trade and Industry Minister.

## BRITAIN TODAY



**FORECAST**  
General situation Rain and fog in eastern Scotland and north-east England, although north-east England will brighten, with sunny spells later in the day. There will be some direct sunshine in Northern Ireland, but it will cloud over with rain soon arriving. Western Scotland, England and Wales will start dry with sunny spells but rain will move into Wales and southern and central England later.  
SE England, London, E Anglia: Sunny spells, but rain arriving in the afternoon. A light to moderate southerly wind. Max temp 21-23C (70-73F).  
West Midlands: Sunny spells, but rain in the afternoon. A light southerly wind. Max temp 21-22C (70-72F).  
Channel Is, SW England, Wales: Rain moving in for the day. A light to moderate south-easterly wind. Max temp 18-20C (64-68F).  
Cent N, E & NE England: Drizzle, but brightening later with sunny spells developing. A light southerly wind. Max temp 18-21C (64-70F).  
NW England, Lake Isle, Isle of Man: Sunny spells, but an increasing threat of rain. A light south-easterly wind. Max temp 15-17C (59-63F).  
N Ireland: Rain soon setting in. A moderate south-easterly wind. Max temp 17-18C (63-64F).  
SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Sunny spells. A light easterly wind. Max temp 17-20C (63-68F).  
SE & NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen: Misty with fog, drizzle and rain. A light and variable wind. Max temp 14-17C (57-63F).  
N Isles: Misty with fog, drizzle and rain. A fresh easterly wind. Max temp 13-14C (55-57F).

**OUTLOOK**  
Rain in eastern Scotland and north-east England on Saturday, with a mix of sunny spells and showers elsewhere. Very windy on Sunday with rain, then blustery and heavy showers in most parts. Monday will remain very windy and showery.

**TRAVEL**  
In force. Until 1st January 1999, various restrictions in place.  
Birmingham: M4 between J65 Maidenhead and J7 Slough. New road layout with a 50mph speed limit in a new half-mile car-pooling during flood relief work. Until 30th November.  
Bristol: M5 J16-19. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 1st January 2001. AA Roadwatchers Call 0800 601777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).  
In force. Until 1st January 1999, various restrictions in place.  
West Midlands: M5 between J5 (Bham west) and J2 (Dudley). Restructuring work with narrow lanes both ways. Until 12th October.  
West Yorkshire: M1 between J43 Skipton and J42 (Lofthouse Interchange) (M62). Roadworks with 50mph speed limit. Until 1st November.  
Bundlingham: M40 between junctions 1a (M25) & 3 Wycombe East. Three narrow lanes both ways and a 50 mph speed limit.

## LIGHTING UP

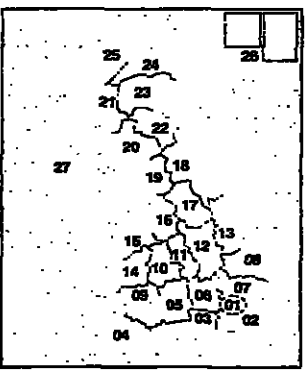
Belfast	8.09pm	to 6.35am
Birmingham	7.45pm	to 6.24am
Bristol	7.50pm	to 6.25am
Glasgow	8.04pm	to 6.25am
London	7.41pm	to 6.19am
Manchester	7.32pm	to 6.25am
Newcastle	7.52pm	to 6.20am

HIGH TIDES			
	AM	HT	PM
Avonmouth	6.09	11.8	6.37
Blackpool	10.17	8.1	10.36
Cardiff	4.32	4.1	4.57
Cardiff Bay	4.32	4.1	4.57
Cardiff Bay	4.32	4.1	4.57
Cardiff Bay	4.32	4.1	4.57
Cardiff Bay	4.32	4.1	4.57
Cardiff Bay	4.32	4.1	4.57
Cardiff Bay	4.32	4.1	4.57
Cardiff Bay	4.32	4.1	4.57

AIR QUALITY			
Today's readings			
London	NO <sub>2</sub>	Good	Good
S. England	Good	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good	Good
C. England	Good	Good	Good
N. England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good
N. Ireland	Good	Good	Good

SUN & MOON	
Sun rises:	06.18
Sun sets:	19.41
Moon rises:	18.44
Moon sets:	03.30
Full Moon:	Sept 6th

**WEATHERLINE**  
For the latest forecasts call 0800 6000 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).



## YESTERDAY

EXTREMES		
Warmest:	Birmingham	23C (73F).
Coldest (day):	Stranmillis	12C (54F)
Wettest:	Munster	0.98 ins
Driest:	Gunn's Causeway	10.0 hrs
For 24hrs to 2pm Thursday		
Sun	Rain	Max

THE WORLD			
EUROPE NOON TODAY			
London	15	59	
Paris	14	56	
Berlin	13	53	
Rome	12	50	
Moscow	11	47	
Stockholm	10	44	
Helsinki	9	41	
Oslo	8	38	
Reykjavik	7	35	
Edinburgh	6	32	
Glasgow	5	29	
Belfast	4	26	
Cardiff	3	23	
Birmingham	2	20	
Manchester	1	17	
Liverpool	0	14	
Sheffield	-1	11	
Nottingham	-2	8	
Leeds	-3	5	
Bradford	-4	2	
Sheff Hallam	-5	-1	
Doncaster	-6	-4	
Wakefield	-7	-7	
York	-8	-10	
Lincoln	-9	-13	
Nottingham	-10	-16	
Leeds	-11	-19	
Bradford	-12	-22	
Sheff Hallam	-13	-25	
Doncaster	-14	-28	
Wakefield	-15	-31	
York	-16	-34	
Lincoln	-17	-37	
Nottingham	-18	-40	
Leeds	-19	-43	
Bradford	-20	-46	
Sheff Hallam	-21	-49	
Doncaster	-22	-52	
Wakefield	-23	-55	
York	-24	-58	
Lincoln	-25	-61	
Nottingham	-26	-64	
Leeds	-27	-67	
Bradford	-28	-70	
Sheff Hallam	-29	-73	
Doncaster	-30	-76	
Wakefield	-31	-79	
York	-32	-82	
Lincoln	-33	-85	
Nottingham	-34	-88	
Leeds	-35	-91	
Bradford	-36	-94	
Sheff Hallam	-37	-97	
Doncaster	-38	-100	
Wakefield	-39	-103	
York	-40	-106	
Lincoln	-41	-109	
Nottingham	-42	-112	
Leeds	-43	-115	
Bradford	-44	-118	
Sheff Hallam	-45	-121	
Doncaster	-46	-124	
Wakefield	-47	-127	
York	-48	-130	
Lincoln	-49	-133	
Nottingham	-50	-136	
Leeds	-51	-139	
Bradford	-52	-142	
Sheff Hallam	-53	-145	
Doncaster	-54	-148	
Wakefield	-55	-151	
York	-56	-154	
Lincoln	-57	-157	
Nottingham	-58	-160	
Leeds	-59	-163	
Bradford	-60	-166	
Sheff Hallam	-61	-169	
Doncaster	-62	-172	
Wakefield	-63	-175	
York	-64	-178	
Lincoln	-65	-181	
Nottingham	-66	-184	
Leeds	-67	-187	
Bradford	-68	-190	
Sheff Hallam	-69	-193	
Doncaster	-70	-196	
Wakefield	-71	-199	
York	-72	-202	
Lincoln	-73	-205	
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Doncaster	-78	-220	
Wakefield	-79	-223	
York	-80	-226	
Lincoln	-81	-229	
Nottingham	-82	-232	
Leeds	-83	-235	
Bradford	-84	-238	
Sheff Hallam	-85	-241	
Doncaster	-86	-244	
Wakefield	-87	-247	
York	-88	-250	
Lincoln	-89	-253	
Nottingham	-90	-256	
Leeds	-91	-259	
Bradford	-92	-262	
Sheff Hallam	-93	-265	
Doncaster	-94	-268	
Wakefield	-95	-271	
York	-96	-274	
Lincoln	-97	-277	
Nottingham	-98	-280	
Leeds	-99	-283	
Bradford	-100	-286	

**RAIN OR SHINE**  
BRITAIN APPEARS to have enjoyed the last of the summer sun as torrential rain hits many parts with more wet weather predicted for this weekend.

Remnants of hurricane Bonnie, which caused storms to rip through North Carolina, were believed to be contributing to the rain coming in from the west as cloud and moisture added to the normal Atlantic depressions.

## THE WORLD

EUROPE			
			
Key			
1. Britain/IEC			
2. 0-100C			
3. 11-200C			



Swissair crash: Authorities play down terrorism link on journey that was favourite for United Nations officials

# Last flight of the 'UN shuttle'



Canadian investigators searching through recovered passenger belongings and debris yesterday morning at a dock in Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia, following the crash of Swissair Flight 111 into the Atlantic. *Tim Krochak*



Relatives of passengers on the downed Swissair McDonnell Douglas MD-11 arriving at an emergency centre in Cointrin airport, Geneva, hoping for news of survivors. *Fabrice Coffrini*

RESIDENTS ALONG the southern coast of Nova Scotia are accustomed to the noise of aircraft approaching the international airport at Halifax. But what many of them heard late on Wednesday night was something different: the strained screaming of jet engines of a plane that seemed too low in the ink-black sky.

It was about 10.30pm when it passed over the house of Claudia Zwick-Gilroy. "The motors were still going, but it was the worst-sounding deep groan that I've heard," she said. Edie Boyle didn't know what to think. "It sounded like a UFO, because it was just dropping."

What they and countless others were hearing were the last, terrifying moments of the Swissair MD-11, which crashed into the Atlantic off the coast of Nova Scotia, apparently with the loss of all 229 passengers and crew. It was only seconds before those on shore heard the awful moment of impact. It was, they said, like a loud thud or a sonic boom.

At Nova Scotia's air traffic control centre in nearby Moncton, they already knew that the Swissair Flight 111, bound to Geneva from New York, was in some kind of trouble. How serious it was, however, may not have been immediately apparent. At 10.14pm, Canadian officials reported yesterday, the pilot declared a distress situation that was one level below a full emergency. There was

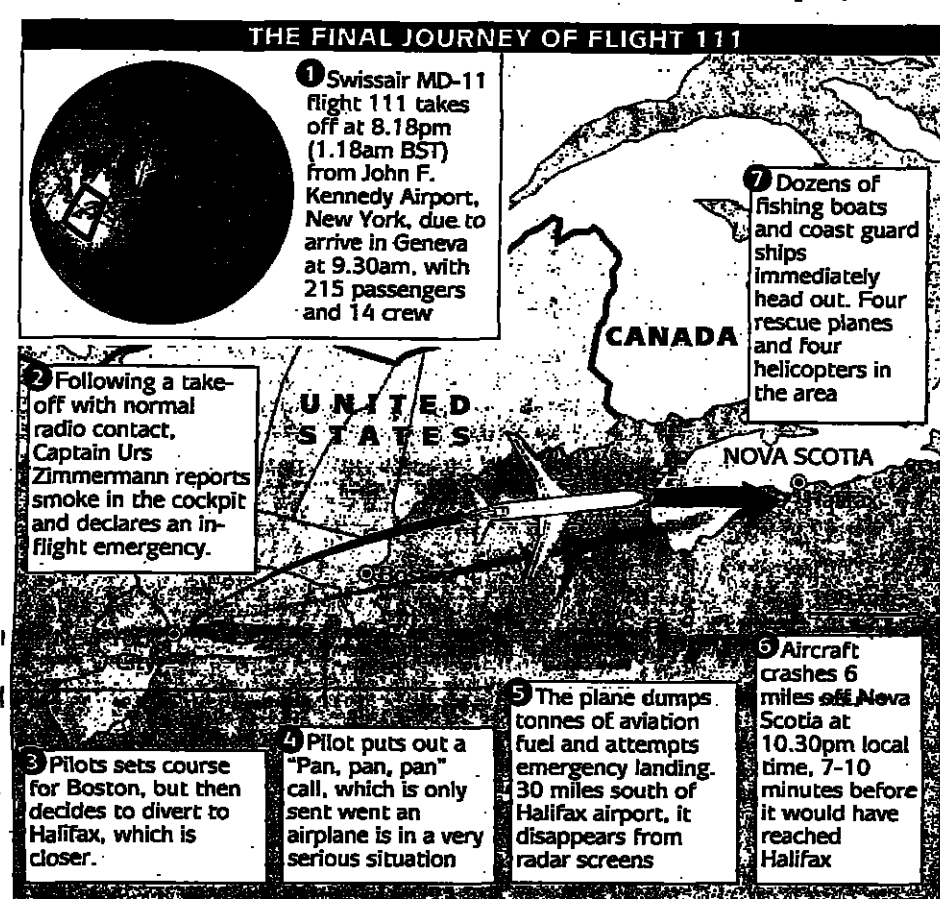
BY DAVID USBORNE  
in New York

smoke in the cockpit, he said, and requested permission to turn the plane back for a landing at Boston's Logan Airport.

Instead, he attempted an emergency touchdown at Halifax. Whether the controllers told him to try for Halifax instead or whether the pilot himself changed his mind was not clear last night. Just as the cause of the plane's malfunction was also a mystery. For several minutes, controllers tracked the aircraft as it descended from 33,000 feet to between 10,000 and 8,000 feet before it disappeared from the radar.

Three words were the last heard from Flight 111. As the pilot desperately tried to coax the plane to the runway at Halifax, he called with a panicked voice: "Pan, pan, pan." The words, in French and German, were for breakdown, it is the gravest distress call that a pilot can give. Another seven or eight minutes aloft in the air, and the MD-11 might have made it.

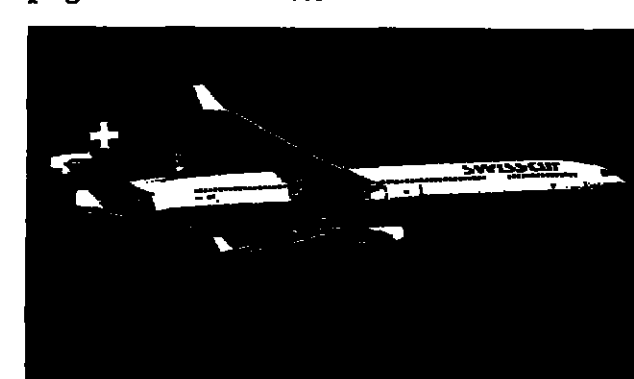
That a most terrible tragedy had occurred was evident by midnight after the plane was declared lost. It left deep pain yesterday that spread far and wide - to the scores of relatives and friends of the dead who were of 12 different nationalities, including British, French, Swiss, and American, to Swissair itself which until yesterday had experienced no accidents for 20 years.



And it was being felt at the United Nations, which lost up to 10 officials on a flight known widely as the "UN Shuttle" because the numbers of staff it carried daily between the twin headquarters in New York and Geneva. Among the victims were Dr Jonathan Mann and his wife Mary, world-renowned

pioneers in Aids research. From Peggy's Cove and others nearby, a flotilla of fishing boats and small craft headed at midnight into high seas and driving rain in a bid to find survivors. It was a search, however, that quickly saw hopes fade. In a debris field of several square miles, rescuers

found only bits of grizzly flotsam - articles of clothing, small parts of the aircraft as well as mangled body parts. "Fishermen were coming on the VHF radio asking for body bags and pleading at some points for the Navy to take bodies off their boats," said a Canadian reporter who joined the flotilla.



A Swissair MD-11 of the type that crashed

"They didn't want more bodies on their boats".

With hope almost gone of finding survivors, by daylight, the rescue effort had been joined by several cutters of the Canadian coastguard as well as Canadian naval warships. Crash investigators from Canada and the United States were also on their way. American investigators brought with them the experience of probing the crash of TWA 800 which crashed two years ago off Long Island, also on a flight out of John F Kennedy Airport in New York and also at night.

While holding back the names of victims, Swissair revealed that more than half the victims were American.

The company said its passenger list included 137 Americans, 30 French, six Britons, three Germans, three Italians and two Greeks. There were also two infants on the flight.

Concerns instantly raised about the possibility of sabotage

were quickly downplayed by both the airline and by American authorities, who have been on alert for possible terrorist actions in the wake of President Clinton's missile strikes in Afghanistan and Sudan. "My understanding is that all initial information indicates that it was an accident," Janet Reno, the US Attorney General, told reporters in Washington.

Hopes for discovering what happened to the jetliner now depend on finding the aircraft's "black-box" recorders. Sonar equipment had been deployed in the crash area to try to locate the machines.

There was also expectation that large sections of the plane may have descended to the bottom of the ocean, which was at a depth in the area of between 75 and 150 feet, Canadian officials said. Meanwhile, the small size of the few pieces of debris being recovered from the sea's surface seemed to suggest that the plane had hit the

water at considerable speed. Notions that the pilot may have been trying to ditch the aircraft on the ocean's surface without it breaking apart were dismissed by most experts.

As news of the calamity travelled, there were scenes of shock and grief at both JFK and Geneva airports as next of kin and other relatives rushed to find out what had befallen Flight 111. In New York, Delta Airlines, which has a code-share agreement with Swissair and which had placed numerous passengers on the doomed flight, made a first-class lounge available to counsel and inform the distressed.

At Geneva, Swissair Flight 111 was initially listed on the indicator board as simply "delayed". Soon, however, a single sheet of paper was pinned beneath the board, saying, "SR111, please go to the Skycom desk". The flight had been scheduled to arrive at 9.30 am Swiss time yesterday.

Weeping relatives turned up at the arrivals hall. They were shielded from journalists and cameras and led away to a sealed area of the airport, where doctors and priests were ready to calm them.

As all hope of finding survivors dwindled, a senior local government official summed up the mood at Geneva's Cointrin Airport: "It is the dark of the night in Halifax, there is darkness in our hearts and we are all sad".

Additional reporting Peter Capella in Geneva

## Mystery of smoke in cockpit of crippled plane

WHY Swissair Flight SR111 crashed will occupy the minds of accident investigators for weeks to come.

Government and airline officials yesterday played down the likelihood of a bomb. Engine failure seems unlikely, as witnesses heard the roar of jets shortly before the crash. The only clue is that the crew reported smoke in the cockpit.

Problems began when the plane had reached its cruising altitude of 33,000 feet, an hour after leaving New York. The pilots began dumping fuel but were unable to control the

BY PAUL LASHMAR

plane. Key questions should be quickly answered by the plane's "black boxes". The aircraft had two, the cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder - both designed to resist any crash impact. They also have radio signalling devices. Ten investigators from the Canadian Transportation Safety Board have arrived in Nova Scotia and are being joined by US and Swiss experts.

First the team will send divers to recover the boxes. "Black boxes have been re-

covered from much deeper water," said David Learmont, operations and safety editor of *Flight International*.

He pointed out that European safety regulations require airlines to make their black boxes record much more information than American regulators. "That's why we don't know what happened to TWA 800," Mr Learmont said. TWA 800 exploded off the American coast in 1996, killing 230. "TWA 800 was a very elderly 747, over 20 years old, but this aircraft is relatively young, with the latest equipment. It

had a digital cockpit and there will be large amounts of information." He also cited two other fatal accidents involving US passenger aircraft, in Pittsburgh and Colorado Springs in 1994, for which the cause is unknown due to lack of black-box information.

In a European aircraft the black boxes will have recorded at least 200 pieces of information, enabling investigators to establish, for instance, whether there was a fire on board, or in an engine, or if a part failed. What the cockpit crew said in the minutes leading up to the

crash will also be revealing. The aircraft was an MD-11, a wide-body three-engine jet. It is the successor of the DC-10, the McDonnell Douglas jumbo that acquired a reputation as a death-trap after a series of accidents in the 1970s. The MD-11's designation hides its relationship with the DC-10.

"There has never been an accident involving the MD-11 in which there was anything wrong with the aircraft," Mr Learmont said. "The MD-11 has an impeccable safety record."

Swissair SR111 was a sched-

uled flight from New York to Geneva. It was about an hour out, having passed Boston, when some kind of problem occurred. The cockpit crew radioed that they were going to make an emergency landing. They then reported smoke in the cabin and said they were going to try to land at Halifax International Airport, directly on their path.

Unlike TWA 800, which was subject to an explosion, Flight SR111 seems to have been suffering an escalating problem. Shortly before it crashed the crew had given the message

"Pan, pan, pan", indicating something was seriously wrong. They were 30 miles from Halifax airport's runway.

Mr Learmont said it is hard to reach any conclusions at the moment. "We don't know what the pilot was doing. We don't know what caused the smoke. We don't know if the pilot was in control of the aircraft when it came down or if he intended to ditch."

Smoke in the cockpit is not in itself an insurmountable problem. The crew have masks and goggles and can still land an aircraft.

But they would be concerned about the passengers: smoke in aircraft is highly toxic and potentially fatal for passengers not supplied with smoke masks.

Swissair's last major accident was 20 years ago, when 14 people died when a DC-8 overshot the runway at Athens. In 1970 a plane was destroyed by a bomb.

But one has to go back to 3 September 1963 to find an accident of similar proportions: a Caravelle crashed near Zurich, killing all 80 people on board.

## Leading Aids scientist among victims

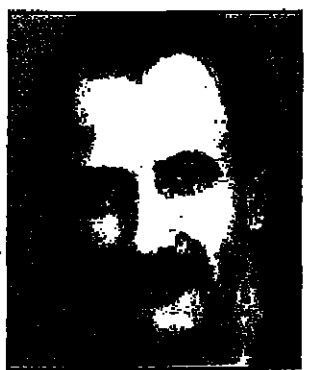
BY KATHY MARES

AT LEAST 10 United Nations employees were on the flight, including Jonathan Mann, the renowned Aids pioneer, and his wife, Mary Lou Clements-Mann, a vaccine expert.

Other UN staff who died included Dr Pierce Gerety, in charge of operations for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in the Great Lakes region of central Africa, and Ludwig Beaumler, a director of operations of the World Intellectual Property Organisation. Dr Mann was dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia for seven years, until 1997, and was a professor at the Harvard School of Public Health. His wife worked at



Jonathan Mann (left), the Aids pioneer killed when Swissair 111 crashed; along with the plane's first officer Stephan Loew and the captain Urs Zimmermann



John Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health in Baltimore. They were on their way to meetings of the World Health Organisation in Geneva. Gro Harlem Brundtland, the former Norwegian

prime minister, who is director-general of WHO, disclosed that they were on the plane. UN flags in Geneva were flown at half-mast.

The names of other passengers will be released when all

relatives have been informed. The passenger list showed 137 Americans, three Germans, three Italians and two Greeks were on board, together with one person from the countries of Saudi Arabia, Yugoslavia,

Afghanistan, Iran, Spain, Russia and St Kitts and Nevis.

The dead included two babies and the plane's 14 crew members, one of whom worked for Delta, Swissair's American partner airline. The two pilots were Captain Urs Zimmermann, 50, and First Officer Stephan Loew, 36, who were both said to be MD-11 instructors with considerable experience of flying the aircraft.

Marc Rosset, 27, the 1992 Olympic tennis champion, was booked on the flight but cancelled a few hours before take-off. The Swiss player, No 47 in the world, was beaten in the first round of the United States Open on Monday and planned to leave on the first available flight. His coach persuaded him to stay on to New York to practice.

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# Northern Ireland: President brings healing touch to devastated town as republican factions split over use of violence

## Provisionals tell Real IRA to disband

A VIOLENT feud between rival factions of Irish republicanism threatened to erupt last night as leaders of the dissident Real IRA were ordered to disband or face unspecified "reprisals" from the Provisionals.

A statement from the national executive of the 32 County Sovereignty Committee, which Gardaí believe is linked to the Real IRA, revealed the warning in a statement issued in Dublin yesterday.

The latest threats were allegedly made by senior Provisional IRA army council representatives during visits to

BY ALAN MURDOCH  
in Dublin

homes of up to 60 people this week saying action would be taken if the Real IRA did not disband within a fortnight.

"In the last 48 hours threats have been received from fellow republicans," it said. "This sullies the name of republicanism and we want these people to stop making threats against us."

The threat follows alleged warnings last month from Provisionals to individual members of the splinter group that they were now "dead men walk-

ing" as a result of the Omagh bombing. One man who was visited at his home added: "Two men called at my door and said the Real IRA had no right to exist and accused it of misappropriating weapons."

"At other houses, members of the Sovereignty Committee were told they had no right to speak against the peace process. Some were simply warned that action would be taken against them if they did not make amends within a fortnight ... others were informed they would be shot."

"Some of the callers ex-

plained they were just following orders." Universal anger at the Omagh killings are thought to have led to a number of supporters of the Real IRA backing away from further involvement.

Last week a split between those wishing to end the campaign and a rump committed to continuing violence was cited by Dublin observers as the reason for a failure to announce an anticipated Real IRA complete ceasefire. News of the private warnings follows a public instruction by the mainstream republican movement.

Interviewed in yesterday's O

issue of Sinn Féin's weekly newspaper *An Phoblacht/Republican News* (APRN), an IRA spokesperson said: "Irish republicans throughout the 32 counties have, both privately and publicly, made very clear their anger at the actions of those responsible for the (Omagh) bomb. They have done only disservice to the republican cause. They have no coherent political strategy; they are not a credible alternative to the Irish Republican Army."

"In the immediate aftermath of the Omagh bomb they announced a temporary halt to

their actions. This is insufficient. They should disband and do so sooner rather than later." Leading Real IRA figures have faced local hostility from Dundalk to County Cork after being identified in national and local media.

From today Real IRA members will face intensified police action in the Irish Republic after new laws making it easier to prosecute members of illegal organisations and those directing or assisting terrorism took effect last night.

The Irish Seanad (Senate) yesterday backed the package following the Dail's approval on

Wednesday. With President Mary McAleese visiting Australia, her role in signing the legislation into law was taken by the three-strong Presidential Commission, comprising the Chief Justice and the speakers of the Dail and Seanad.

If the Provisionals are drawn into a protracted violent feud recalling that when the 1970 split with the so-called Official IRA sparked years of beatings and shootings, the implications for Sinn Féin's role in the Stormont Assembly and the wider peace process could be serious.

Sinn Féin has formally endorsed the Good Friday Agreement and the earlier Mitchell principles specifically rejecting violence.

Clear breaches by the Provisionals of the principles now would present major difficulties for the embryonic consensus between unionists, nationalists and republicans.

Last week a widely-predicted complete ceasefire by the Real IRA failed to materialise, prompting rumours of an internal rift between those wishing to end the campaign and a hard-line rump.

## Clinton says get rid of all weapons

THE CLINTON visit was unarguably a big day in Northern Ireland yesterday, even if there was little of the jubilation and celebration which marked his first trip just under three years ago.

The theme of hope and the possibility of political progress ran through the day, though there was an emphasis on how many difficulties lie ahead in the peace process.

The event was, however, overshadowed by four separate elements. One was the Monica Lewinsky affair and the possibility of further embarrassments on Bill Clinton's return to Washington; a second was the Omagh bombing; a third was the fear, which he himself voiced, that "Omagh was not the last bomb of the troubles". On top of all these came the Nova Scotia air crash.

But if the visit understandably did not re-capture the euphoria and elation of the first Clinton trip in late 1995, it was by no means a dismal affair. A ceremony to mark a projected new peacetime university in the heart of west Belfast's urban deprivation, for example, concentrated attention on the themes of youth and education.

In Omagh, a suspicion that townspeople were growing tired of visits from VIPs in the wake of the bombing seemed to be dispelled when thousands flocked to the streets to see the president. Most of the rest of the Clinton visit to Belfast was meant to be seen

BY DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland Correspondent

as a strong re-affirmation of US support for the peace process in general and in particular the Good Friday agreement with its centrepiece of the new assembly. He first met assembly members at Stormont, ranging from Sinn Féin to the Democratic Unionists.

Then at Belfast's Waterfront Hall pride of place was given to the assembly's leaders, first minister-designate David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, and his nationalist deputy Seamus Mallon. They shared the stage with Bill Clinton and Tony Blair.

In a short passage in his main speech the president set out two major targets: "To de-commission weapons of war that are obsolete in Northern Ireland at peace; to move forward with a formation of an executive council."

Intense American pre-visit diplomacy did not succeed in bringing about either actual de-commissioning or the handshake between David Trimble and Gerry Adams which would signal that both would be taking their places in an executive to run Northern Ireland.

But it did help propel the two sides towards each other, with Trimble-Adams meetings now in prospect and this week's republican moves on de-commissioning and on other fronts. The visit also served to show how far politics has already moved.



President Bill Clinton holds a copy of 'The Independent' with a picture of his wife Hillary on the front page, taken at her speech in Belfast last night

PA



Bill Clinton shakes hands with Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness (left) watched by the party's leader, Gerry Adams

## Mr Retaliation comes to town

UNDER A balmy evening sky, President Clinton stood on the exact spot where the Omagh bomb exploded and wiped tears from his eyes.

Visibly moved as he stood amid the remaining wreckage, the American president unveiled a plaque in memory of the victims. In scenes described by the Prime Minister's spokesman as "very sombre and subdued", he then made his way down the tiny street to where a sea of people were waiting to greet him, accompanied by Mrs Clinton, Tony and Cherie Blair and Mo Mowlam.

As he moved slowly towards the crowds, surrounded by dozens of bodyguards and followed by a long line of limousines, the mood lined with the

BY DARIUS SANAI

sounds of hundreds of people cheering.

Among the crowd were nurses from the hospitals where the injured were treated after the bombing and members of the fire and ambulance services.

"He had tears in his eyes," said Brenda O'Leary, one of the nurses. "I know he's a politician, but they were genuine."

He had arrived late to greet the crowd of 3,000 in the centre of Omagh yesterday afternoon, having spent longer than planned on a visit, together with Mr Blair and the first ladies, to the local leisure centre.

There, away from the eyes of the media, they met the injured and the relatives of the victims

of the bomb - at the same riverside leisure centre where they had gathered after the blast waiting to hear if their loved ones had survived. The Clintons were said to be "very moved" by the experience.

No town that has witnessed the death and destruction wrought in Omagh could be expected to welcome any politician with wide open arms. But the Clintons received an unexpectedly warm welcome.

Above Market Street, where wreaths of flowers and teddy bears and cards dotted the spots where children had been killed by the Real IRA bomb, a young woman was pushing a pram. Summing up the thoughts of many of her townsfolk, she said that being the cen-

tre of world attention for a positive reason would inevitably galvanise the desire for peace.

"What's funny though," said Bronagh McCusker, "is that we all said there should be no retaliation when the bomb hit, and the politicians said it too. So what does Clinton do when the US Embassy is attacked? He retaliates by bombing civilians."

Claran and Liam Hagan, teenage cousins, were at the front of the crowd as the president's party arrived in town. "How can it not make a difference?" said Claran. "He spent so much time fighting for peace here."

Mary McAnerney said that President Clinton had made a particular effort to spend time

with the small children in the crush at the front of the crowd. "Even though I know a lot of these things are politically motivated, it still helps us."

Earlier in Belfast, Mr Clinton said it was the will of the people which had brought the country to a new moment of political hope, but he warned of a hard road ahead.

"The question is not whether tempers will flare and debates will be divisive. They certainly will be."

"The question is: How will you react to it all, to the violence? How will you deal with your differences? Can the bad habits and brute forces of yesterday break your will for tomorrow's peace. That is the question."

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## Blair to delay PR until after next election

TONY BLAIR is to delay reforms to the voting system for Parliamentary elections until after the next general election.

The decision, which means the next election will be fought under the present first-past-the-post system, will anger Labour supporters of electoral reform and the Liberal Democrats, who had hoped the Prime Minister would endorse immediate change to a more proportional method.

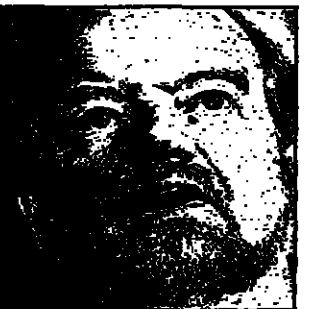
His critics will regard Mr Blair's position as a cynical calculation that Labour will win an overall majority at the next election, and then introduce electoral reform for the poll after next, when it may need to join forces with Paddy Ashdown's party to keep the

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Correspondent

Tories out of power.

In a policy document published yesterday, the LibDems pencilled in October next year as the likely date for the referendum on the voting system promised in Labour's election manifesto last year. But senior ministers told *The Independent* there was no prospect of the referendum being held before 2000, since legislation would not be introduced in the crowded Parliamentary session starting this November.

Another reason for delay is that changing the voting system would almost certainly require the Boundary Commission to redraw the map of Parliamen-



Opponents over PR: Robin Cook and John Prescott



Opponents over PR: Robin Cook and John Prescott

tary constituencies, a process that would take two or three years. With Mr Blair likely to call the next election in 2001, there would not be time for a boundary review to be carried out by then.

Mr Blair will soon start con-

sulting senior ministers about the scale of voting reform. He is treading cautiously because the Cabinet is split between supporters of full-scale proportional representation (PR), such as Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and opponents

of change, who include John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister and Gordon Brown, the Chancellor.

Mr Blair, who has said he is "not persuaded" about PR, is expected to seek a Cabinet consensus for a limited change under which voters would list candidates in their order of preference instead of voting for one as under first-past-the-post.

Such a system is expected to be recommended next month by a commission, set up by Mr Blair last year, which is chaired by Lord Jenkins, the LibDem peer and former Labour minister. Under the Jenkins plan, the single-member constituencies would be reduced from 659 to about 500, with a

"top-up" of about 100 MPs elected according to each party's share of the overall vote.

Mr Blair is anxious to limit the number elected on a proportional basis. He wants a system under which it would still be possible for one party to win an overall majority, so that Britain would not be governed by a series of coalitions. Mr Blair therefore opposed a previous plan by Lord Jenkins for one third of MPs to be elected according to each party's share of the total vote.

Close allies insisted yesterday that Mr Blair had not made up his mind on electoral reform, with one saying: "It's a huge decision, one of the biggest he will make. It will require a delicate balancing act."









THE EXPERT'S GUIDE TO WILD MUSHROOMS							
SPECIES	CHANTERELLE <i>Cantharellus cibarius</i>	CEPE <i>Boletus edulis</i>	MOREL <i>Morchella esculenta</i>	HORN OF PLENTY <i>Craterellus cornucopioides</i>	SAFFRON MILK CAP <i>Lactarius deliciosus</i>	FIELD MUSHROOM <i>Agaricus campestris</i>	ANTONIO CARLUCCIO
DISTRIBUTION	Common in Britain, often in birch or pine woods. Apricot-yellow in colour. The profile of French restaurants.	Large chanterelle mushroom with brown or orange-tinted cap, found in all types of woodland throughout Britain.	A greyish mushroom with an elliptical cap, pleated like a honeycomb. Commoner in Europe than in Britain.	Blackish-brown, found in beech woods, shaped like a narrow trumpet. <i>Trampette de Mort</i> in France.	Found under conifers. Pale orange cap with darker orange concentric bands, fairly common in Britain.	The common pale wild mushrooms that people find in meadows in the morning, rarer than they once were.	
COST	About £13 per pound	About £40 per pound	About £100 per pound	About £85 per pound	About £13 per pound	Not often on sale	
CARLUCCIO'S VERDICT	Everybody thinks chanterelles like apricots but it doesn't, it just looks like one. A very tender and nice mushroom, but it doesn't have a great deal of flavour. It's very delicate. That's why I serve it often with eggs, so as not to overpower the flavour.	Very robust in taste and texture, more or less the king of mushrooms. The taste is heaven. A very tasty taste, a very nutty taste, extremely flavoured and mushroomy. But it's extremely versatile, it can be eaten raw, especially the small ones, with olive oil, lemon and parsley and a pinch of salt. That's fantastic.	They are lovely washed. They are hollow and they tend to incorporate everything in the place where they grow, so you have to be careful there aren't little stones inside. Cut the leg and open it. The flavour intensifies when they are dried, and they are the only dried mushrooms that regenerate back to their full original size when soaked.	Flavour rather like the Chanterelle, almost more delicate. Not full flavoured. It discolours a bit when cooked. I like it particularly with boiled sole or steamed fish.	That's a delightful one, lovely, but you have to be careful not to confuse it with <i>Lactarius torminosus</i> , which is poisonous.	These are wonderful, extremely nutty and very sweet, but again one has to be careful not to confuse them with the similar-looking yellow-stained <i>Agaricus xanthodermis</i> , which is poisonous.	<b>Picking advice:</b> If you don't know what they are, don't pick them. Go with an expert at first, and go often so you can recognise one or two, and then gradually go on to recognising more.

## Mushroom pickers get a code of conduct

BRITAIN'S FIRST code of conduct for pickers of wild mushrooms is published today. It calls on people to act responsibly, show restraint and leave some fungi behind.

The code has been developed in response to fears that the increasing vogue for wild mushrooms in restaurants is leading to over-picking, which is harming woodlands and wildlife.

Tasty species such as chanterelles, cepes and horns of plenty, collected with passion in continental Europe but for long left on the ground in the UK, are now fetching British pickers remarkable sums. A recent survey put their retail price per pound in supermarkets at £13, £45 and £85 respectively.

But such handsome rewards have led some collectors and commercial pickers to damage the habitats where the mushrooms grow. They have wiped clean whole areas of wood and forest by picking the inedible as well as the

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

the site. The code suggests that anyone who wants to pick seriously should attend a course, or a foray — an organised mushroom-gathering expedition.

"Be aware that some fungi are very poisonous and many others may make you unwell," it warns.

In drawing up the code English Nature has enlisted the support of the Forestry Commission, the National Trust, the Woodland Trust, the Association of British Fungus Groups and another expert body, the British Mycological Society.

Antonio Carluccio, owner of The Neal Street Restaurant in London and the capital's best-known enthusiast for wild mushrooms, also gave it his backing. "Take only what you need for personal use and pick only those you are 100 per cent sure about. Don't destroy the poisonous ones," he said.

The return to culinary

here, and partly because of the publicity given to their culinary value by people like Antonio Carluccio.

It was not certain that mass picking actually harmed the mushrooms themselves, Dr Johnson said, but it did harm

the aesthetic qualities of the woodlands they grew in, and the wildlife they supported.

"Wild mushrooms are enjoyed in the autumn by many members of the public who don't wish to pick them, but who see them as part of the sur-

roundings, yet we have had whole areas of the New Forest stripped of everything by eight in the morning," he said. "I've seen a Land Rover full."

Up to 1,000 insect and other invertebrate species depended on wild fungi, he said. "And

it's only common sense that if you pick out all the fruiting buds of one particular species year after year, you are very likely to cause local extinctions of the organisms that live on those species."

The mycologists have

agreed to the code but are slightly wary of some of its provisions. "The scientific evidence shows that commercial picking is not in fact damaging the numbers of fungi, and we want the code to remain flexible, and not be turned into a

law," said Professor Roy Watling, Britain's leading wild mushroom expert.

He retired this summer after working at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. Yesterday he was leading 36 cep-fanciers on a foray in Perthshire.



Professor Roy Watling, a wild mushroom expert, hopes the new code will be 'flexible' Colin McPherson

edible species. After subsequent close examination the inedible ones are thrown away. Such practices have led commercial pickers to be banned in the New Forest.

The 30-point code, published by English Nature, the Government's wildlife agency, in collaboration with several other conservation organisations, offers guidelines on how to collect and enjoy wild mushrooms in a sustainable way.

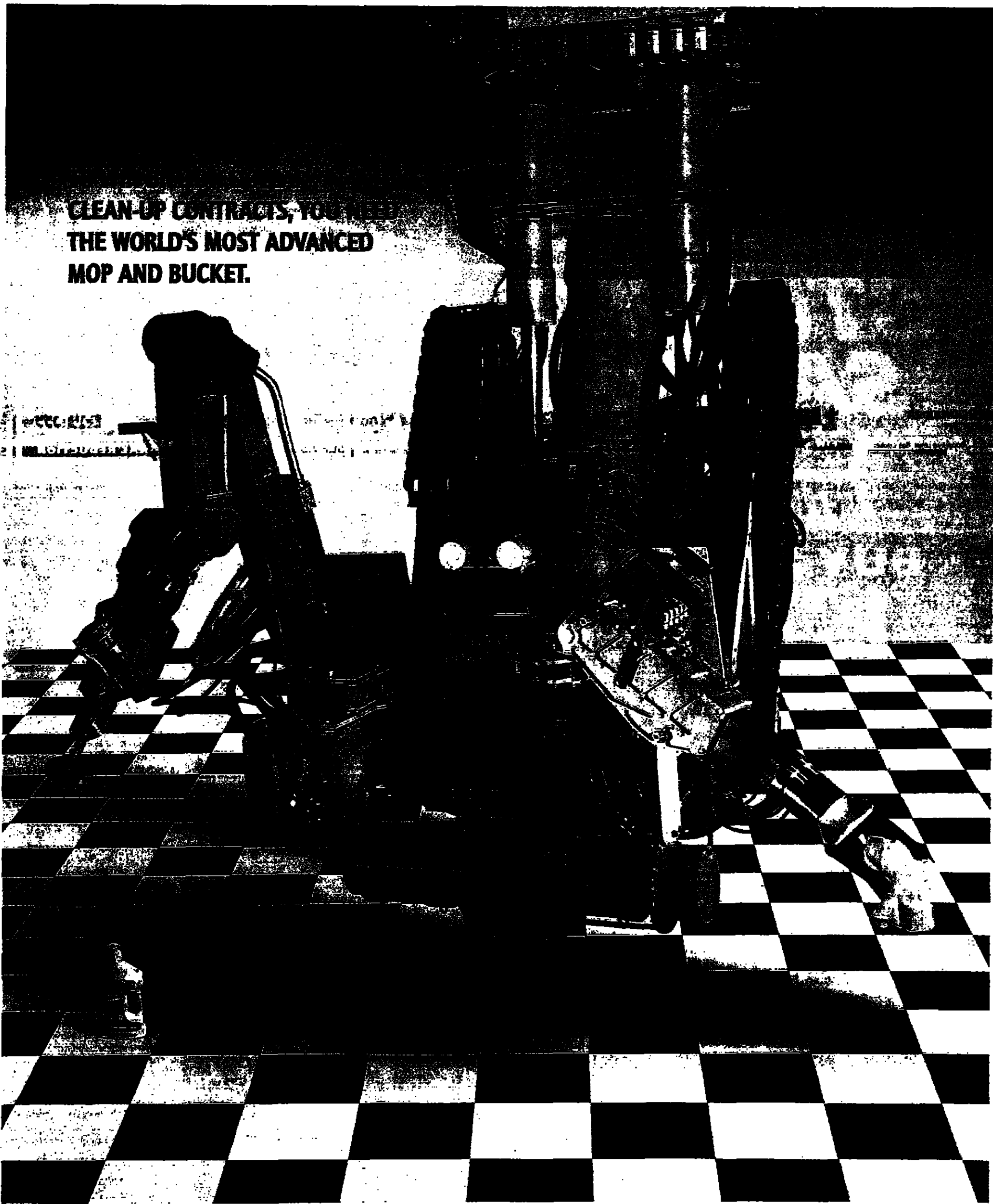
It urges pickers to minimise damage to vegetation, leaf litter and soil, not to take rare species, not to pick button mushrooms that have not yet expanded their caps, and to take no more than is wanted for personal consumption. This, it says, should be no more than about three pounds per person per visit, or no more than half the mushrooms of any one species present, whichever is the lower.

The code does not discourage commercial picking but says it should be agreed with the landowner or manager of

favour of wild mushrooms in Britain has been a notable, if small-scale, cultural event. Until the Seventies, Britons almost alone of the European peoples paid no heed to their wild fungi, eating only cultivated mushrooms and the common white field mushroom, and using the word "toadstool" for mushrooms they thought inedible. (The two words are in fact entirely interchangeable.)

But a change began in 1972 with the naturalist Richard Mabey's book *Food For Free*, which showed what culinary riches the countryside offered. It was followed by other cookbooks celebrating wild mushrooms, and then by restaurants putting them on menus.

"There has been an enormous increase in the collection of wild mushrooms in Britain in recent years," said Brian Johnson, English Nature's botanical services manager. "It's partly because people have eaten them in France and other places and want to try them



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## Flights at £16.99 in air-fare war

RYANAIR, THE low-cost airline, launched a sale of a million one-way flights in Europe yesterday as a response to BA's recent weekend of special offers.

The sale will last for 12 days. It includes flights to 26 destinations, to be taken between 12 September and 16 December, at fares from £16.99.

Michael O'Leary, chief executive of Ryanair, criticised the prices and availability of tickets during BA's 48-hour sale, and said: "Ryanair will have to show BA how a low-fare seat sale should be run."

A spokeswoman for BA said it was unconcerned by the Ryanair offer and had no plans to offer another sale at the moment. "Ryanair's sale demonstrates what we have always said, that competition benefits the consumer, but our sale

BY KATE WATSON-SMYTH

was much larger and involved more long-haul flights," she said.

"Competition is not restricted to fares alone, it includes service in the air and on the ground, and we offer a full service including food and drink, so the sales do not really compare."

The £16.99 fares will be available on flights from Stansted to Rimini in Italy, Kristianstad in Sweden and St Etienne in France, as well as from Luton and Liverpool to Dublin, and Stansted to Frestwick in Scotland. Flights to Pisa, Stockholm, Carcassonne and Oslo will cost £29.99 one way, but only for weekday travel.

Anyone travelling on Friday, Saturday or Sunday will have to pay £10 extra each way.

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## Ashdown moves Lib Dem policy radically to right

By PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

PADDY ASHDOWN threw down the gauntlet to leftwingers in his party yesterday when he announced a radical overhaul of Liberal Democrat policy.

Mr Ashdown guaranteed a stormy party conference later this month as he unveiled his "mid-term manifesto" to reposition the party away from the old-style politics of tax and spend and towards private enterprise and individual initiative.

Among the policies most likely to cause uproar are plans to take schools out of the control of local authorities, to make prisoners work and to introduce compulsory private second pensions.

Mr Ashdown admitted that he was prepared for "strenuous debate" of the proposals, while one MP warned that some of the plans were certain to "scare the pants off" the more traditional rank-and-file party members.

The blueprint, which follows an exhaustive six-month review, is intended to offer a brand new Liberal Democrat approach for the forthcoming elections to the European Parliament, Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly.

Mr Ashdown said that the Liberal Democrats should become the "pathfinders" of British politics, mapping out innovative ways of creating a nation of strong citizens backed by an enabling, non-interfering government.

"It is the most radical repositioning and recasting of a party's agenda that we have



Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, launching his policy review at the party's headquarters in Westminster yesterday

Brian Harris

seen in the last five or ten years," he said.

"The decision is a very clear one - whether the party goes off to the left or whether the party goes out ahead of British politics and takes up its traditional position for the future."

The 113-page document, entitled *Moving Ahead: Towards*

a *Citizen's Britain*, proposes performance-related pay for ministers and senior civil servants as part of a new public service contract between government and the people.

The flagship policy of putting one penny on income tax to fund education remains intact, as does a commitment to proportional

representation, but other ideas show a marked shift away from what Mr Ashdown called "the Nanny State".

He contrasted his party's approach with that of the Labour Government, which he claimed had a strong "smell of moral authoritarianism".

He said: "Look at beef on the

bone. Mr Blair says he's a democrat but his government acts like a government of control freaks."

A new style of governing body for education - Neighbourhood School Trusts, whose members would be taken from the local community - would take over the running of

schools from local education authorities. Mr Ashdown said: "There are some people in the party who will not find it [the transfer of responsibility] terribly easy to accept or accommodate. Some local authorities will find it worrying that a local authority will change its relationship to a school."

The paper also proposes radical financial reforms, including taking 10 million people out of paying income tax by increasing the level of personal allowances.

Compulsory private second pensions would be introduced, with the proviso that the Chancellor could raise or lower the

level of contributions to keep inflation under control.

The document proposes greater entrepreneurship and experimentation in the delivery of public services and service delivery contracts to allow voters to monitor politicians' pledges.

The idea, which has been pioneered in New Zealand, would mean that a minister's pay could be docked by up to 15 per cent if he failed to produce the results he promised.

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An early indication of opposition to the blueprint came from Jackie Ballard, MP for Taunton, who said that the idea of neighbourhood committees running schools was deeply flawed.

"There is a danger you will have a second tier of schools, whereas with the local education authorities, they have the duty to make sure all the schools in their area achieve a certain standard."

Philip Willis, Liberal Democrat education spokesman, acknowledged that the schools proposal was going to meet opposition.

"It's certain that parts of our party, particularly the councillors and even MPs, will feel that we are going to undermine our strong base in local government."

"It will scare the pants off many of them, but those fears are unfounded. Giving power back to individuals is the very essence of liberal democracy."

"There are many individuals in the party who are more in tune with Old Labour than liberal democracy."

Leading article, Review, page 3

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# Lords attack on 'rushed' terror Bill

THE GOVERNMENT'S emergency anti-terror legislation was set to become law today despite further attacks by peers about the lack of time to consider the measures with proper scrutiny.

While peers broadly supported the Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Bill, they warned during a Lords debate last night that the legislation could contravene the European Convention on Human Rights.

Peers followed MPs in complaining about ministers' insistence to push the Bill on to the statute book in less than 48 hours, but agreed to pass it in one session.

The measures, drafted in the wake of the terrorist atrocities in Omagh, Nairobi and Dar es Salaam, are mirrored by legislation passed in the Dail, Ireland's Lower House.

The Bill will make it easier to prosecute people for membership of outlawed terrorist groups - the Real IRA, which claimed responsibility for the Omagh massacre, the Continuity IRA, the INLA and the UVF. It will also outlaw UK-based groups that conspire to commit offences abroad.

Leading the protests in the Lords against the Government's timetable, the Liberal Democrat chief whip, Lord Harris of Greenwich, said: "We are invited to abandon our role as a revising Chamber."

"We are asked to give the executive almost absolute power to put the legislation on the statute book without detailed debate in the normal manner."

The Opposition peers' leader, Viscount Cranborne, joined the protest, voicing "deep unease" about the manner in which the Bill had been introduced.

Lord Cranborne said the "extraordinarily hurried and unprepared way" it had been brought in was evident in its drafting and called for reassurances about being able to review the legislation later to ensure it was in good order.

Labour's Lord Stoddart of Swindon said there was absolutely no reason why the Bill's clause dealing with conspiracy to commit crimes abroad needed to be introduced with this Bill. He said: "We understand the need to have legislation to deal with terrorism, but it should be the right legislation and correct legislation that will do good."

Responding, the Leader of

By SARAH SCHAEFER  
Parliamentary Reporter

the House of Lords, Baroness Jay of Paddington, promised that Parliament would have the opportunity to review the Bill on an annual basis and assured peers that the Government's Chief Whip was already looking at the issue of dealing with emergency legislation.

"We take these matters very seriously and the substantive points raised will be addressed," she said.

Peers then approved without a vote the Government's motion to enable the Bill to go through the Lords in just one sitting.

Opening the Bill's second



Warnings: Lords Mayhew (above) and Molyneux



reading debate, the Home Office minister Lord Williams of Mostyn reminded critics of the legislation that it had been created in response to the murders in Omagh and to the "clear and present danger" of terrorism.

The Bill, aimed to stop terrorist groups from derailing the Good Friday Agreement, makes admissible in court the opinion of a senior police officer that an individual is a member of such groups, allows a suspect's failure to answer questions to be taken into account, and gives the police the power to seize their property.

The Liberal Democrat spokesman on Northern Ireland, Lord Holme of Chel-

tenham, said the Bill could have been introduced in a "more measured way".

The Bishop of Hereford, the Rt Rev John Oliver, said the Government's failure over the past two years to introduce audio-taping of police interviews in Northern Ireland proved that the Bill was "fraught with danger".

But the former Ulster Unionist Leader, Lord Molyneux of Killead, warned that the Real IRA was as deadly as the body to which they formerly belonged. He stressed that the renegade republican group had transferred much of its weaponry from the IRA and warned that it was likely to have built up a formidable armoury by early next year. "I cannot regard the Bill as totally adequate to contain such a threat," he said.

Lord Lloyd of Berwick, one of Britain's most senior law lords and the judge chosen to review the law on terrorism in 1996, said that Bill would contribute nothing to the fight against terrorism. He added that any conviction that stemmed from the Bill would not stand up in the European Court of Justice. "No judge anywhere in the world could convict solely on the say so of a police officer."

Lord Lloyd added that even Lord Diplock had considered and rejected the idea of drawing inferences from a suspect's silence, as long ago as 1973.

Lord Mayhew of Twysden, the former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, acknowledged that there had been "overwhelming pressure" on the Government to introduce anti-terrorist legislation after the Omagh bombing. "But we have to be careful that this Bill does not turn out to be dangerous law," he said.

He opposed the power to allow the Home Secretary to override the Attorney General's refusal to prosecute a case, claiming "I find that quite extraordinary".

Lord Avebury, former chairman of the all-party human rights group at Westminster, tabled amendments opposing the entire conspiracy abroad provisions.

Earl Russell urged for a restriction of the conspiracy provisions to countries which have free and fair elections.

"Moral outrage, however justified, confers no dispensation from the immutable law of politics, that measures must be capable of producing the desired effect," he said.



# Lairds' feudal powers to be ended

THE lairds and public bodies that own vast tracts of Scotland will be put on notice today that their feudal grip is to be broken and ordinary folk allowed a greater stake in the land.

Donald Dewar, Secretary of State for Scotland, will tell a gathering in Aviemore there needs to be more diversity in the way land is owned and an end to a laird's power to block small community development initiatives. Land ownership is a

By STEPHEN GOODWIN  
Scotland Correspondent

symbolic issue in a country where even the most urban Scot retains a romantic attachment to the hills and glens. But domination by a small number of large estates and the feudal system governing tenures and usage have been sore points for generations. Labour and the Scottish National Party are pledged to re-

form, which will be high on the agenda of the Scottish Parliament when it starts work next year. But landowners fear they could become the victims of a new legislature wanting to demonstrate its virility and intent on misconceived revenge for the Highland clearances of 200 years ago.

Mr Dewar is to release the second of a series of consultation papers. The first, "Identifying the Problems", was

issued last February. Today's turns to possible solutions. A final report is to be issued at the end of this year.

The 360 responses to the first paper ranged from a minority in favour of the status quo to radical public-ownership demands. However, a source said there was "no strong demand" for a ban on foreign ownership of estates or on "absentee" landlords.

The attitude of Lord Sewel,

the minister chairing the land reform working group, is that "there are exceedingly good foreign owners and there are some exceedingly bad Scots owners". What matters is the way land is managed rather than the nationality or identity of who controls it.

While the Scottish Parliament will be free to adopt a more radical approach, the blueprint is likely to focus on removing feudal barriers to

small-scale businesses that could help sustain rural communities and increasing the "diversity" of ownership, though this seems to stop short of enforced sales. People should also be allowed a say in how the private land around them is used, it will suggest.

Most of rural Scotland consists of fewer than 1,500 private estates. Top of the private ownership league is the Duke of Buccleuch, with estates to-

talling more than 250,000 acres.

Any reform is likely to include powers to create new crofts or smallholdings. There are 17,500 crofts in the Highlands and Islands. Demand from young local people is well in excess of supply, though many holdings are unworked - another target of reform.

A novel idea could see crofting extended beyond its traditional areas to the Lowlands, providing an alternative liveli-

hood in communities once dependent on mining or industry.

The Scottish Landowners' Federation will resist giving tenants a right to buy and any restrictions on the size of estates or foreign ownership.

Yesterday it voiced the fear that a new parliament might use the issue to demonstrate it had teeth. "Hopefully, the idea of taking revenge for the Clearances has been stamped on," said a spokesman.



Crofters bought Eigg for £1.5m with partners the Highland Council and Scottish Wildlife Trust. Murdo Macleod



Residents of Knoydart need to find £2.5m to buy their land back from English landlords. Jeff Mitchell

## The people's own island...

FOR SCOTTISH crofters who aspire to be masters of their own territory, a scrap of land in the Hebrides has become a symbol of a community's triumph over a series of indifferent foreign lairds.

The 60 residents of Eigg recently celebrated the first anniversary of a successful campaign to buy the island.

The deal, clinched in June 1997, ended 700 years of private ownership and was seen as an important victory for advocates of Scottish land reform.

Locals, who now own the windswept outcrop in partnership with the Highland Council and the Scottish Wildlife Trust, raised £1.5 million to buy the land. The deal made Eigg the first community-owned island in Britain and marked the end of decades of alleged neglect at the hands of absentee lairds.

The most recent was Marlin Maruma, an eccentric German artist who paid nearly £2 million for the 7,400-acre island in 1995. Mr Maruma, who failed to fulfil a promise to invest £15 mil-

lion, was forced by creditors to put Eigg up for sale after only 15 months. Islanders saw their chance and launched a public appeal that brought thousands of donations from around the world.

For decades, Eigg, an hour's ferry ride from the Scottish mainland, was regarded as a rich man's plaything.

Mr Maruma bought it from Keith Schellenberg, a Yorkshire businessman who fell out with residents after his vintage Rolls-Royce was set alight.

Crofters now have security of tenure on their land, and the community is putting together a development plan for the island based on tourism, farming and wildlife.

Another source of inspiration is the Assynt estate in Sutherland, which crofters bought from a private landowner six years ago. They run and manage it, and have introduced a number of innovative projects, including forestry, hydro-electricity and fish farming.

KATHY MARKS

## ...and the investors' estate

RESIDENTS OF the remote Knoydart estate in the West Highlands have long nurtured the ambition of buying their land. But they are still a long way off raising enough money to meet the £2.5 million asking price.

Knoydart has changed ownership three times in the past 12 years. Locals put in an unsuccessful bid earlier this year, and the estate passed into the hands of the current landlords, Stephen Hinchliffe and Christopher Harrison, English busi-

nessmen. Soon after the buy-out in April, it emerged that the two men have a chequered history. They are being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office and the Department of Trade and Industry because of a string of company failures.

The 70 residents, who passed a vote of no confidence in their landlords after Ian Robertson, the estate manager, was sacked, have launched a public appeal and raised nearly £1m through the fund-raising Knoydart Foundation.

The 16,000-acre estate, which lies on the edge of Loch Nevis, was one of the areas worst hit by the Highland clearances that followed the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

Over the years, it has had a series of colourful owners, including Lord Brocket, grandfather of the current peer, who was imprisoned for Nazi sympathies during the Second World War.

He sold out in the 1950s and it passed through several

lairds, including Lord Hesketh, the Conservative whip in the House of Lords. In 1983 it was bought by Titaghar, a Dundee jute company, which intended to turn it into an adventure holiday resort.

The estate is now owned by Knoydart Peninsular, in which Mr Harrison and Mr Hinchliffe have controlling stakes. John Turvill, managing director of the company, said recently that it had been vilified because it was headed by Englishmen.

KATHY MARKS

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## 10/HOME NEWS

THE INDEPENDENT  
Friday 4 September 1998

# McDonald gets new documentary

ITV ANNOUNCED a new job yesterday for the newscaster Trevor McDonald. Hot on the heels of its campaign to abolish *News at Ten*, the network said that it has awarded the biggest contract yet for a current affairs programme, and that Mr McDonald will be the main presenter.

The new programme, to be based on the vintage American series *60 Minutes*, will be an hour long, and will be made by Manchester-based Granada Television and ITV. Mr McDonald's role will be in the American tradition, a charismatic central figure steering the viewer through in-depth reports and breaking stories.

By JANE ROBINS  
Media Correspondent

A second presenter is likely, and the name of Channel 5's Kirsty Young is mentioned. However, contracts are far from settled, and ITV was not prepared to comment on the subject.

The deal, said industry insiders, smacks of horse-trading. ITV and Mr McDonald had been required to make a huge sacrifice by ITV in giving up *News at Ten* - but the *60 Minutes* deal delivers the company a compensating high-prestige project.

The contract and Mr McDonald's participation is

dependent on the Independent Television Commission (ITC) approving the *News at Ten* decision. However, Steve Anderson, ITV's controller of current affairs, said yesterday he was "confident of proposals put forward to the ITC proceeding."

The *60 Minutes* contract is worth up to £8 million a year, and the battle to secure it was long and bitter. Granada and ITN beat strong rival bids from other big players including Carlton, Twenty-Two Television, United Productions/Barracough Carey and Yorkshire Television.

Mr McDonald, as presenter, had been competing in a "beauty contest" with Kirsty Young

and, until he recently signed a new BBC contract, Jeremy Paxman. He was also Carlton's first choice as anchorman.

ITV's chief executive, Richard Kyre, said yesterday that Granada had won because "it combined a proven track record in delivering high quality ITV current affairs with a new and exciting way of producing the biggest factual show on television".

Those words will not sound sweet to losing bidder Carlton, which has had its factual programming discredited by controversy over a documentary, *The Connection*, which included fake scenes of drug smugglers, and another that failed an

exclusive interview with Fidel Castro. Mr Anderson, however, said Carlton had submitted a strong bid and had simply been beaten by a better one. In the final moments of the contest, a wrangle had been evident over whether the links between ITV bosses and Granada were too close for comfort. David Liddiment, the director of programmes at ITV, is a former Granada man, while ITV's Steve Anderson is the brother of Jeff Anderson, who is the series producer on the Granada bid.

The ITC, meantime, yesterday asked television viewers to submit their views on the abolition of *News at Ten*, and ITV's

proposals for a new evening television schedule.

The television regulator said the public consultation would be vital to its decision, expected in late November, on whether to allow ITV to proceed with its controversial plan.

Viewers are to be asked how much they care about whether films and drama are, as at present, interrupted by *News at Ten* and the regional news that follows it. The relative position of the BBC is also a factor. Viewers will be asked if they mind that, under ITV's proposal, the only full-length news bulletin on the five terrestrial channels between 8pm and 11pm would be on the BBC.



McDonald: Main presenter of the new programme

## Doctors' drinking 'out of control'

By JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health Editor

JUNIOR DOCTORS drink up to six pints of beer a day and take illicit drugs including cannabis, LSD and ecstasy, according to a study.

The scale of excessive drink and drug taking may be putting at risk the health of the doctors and the safety of their patients, researchers from the University of Newcastle say.

The survey of 90 newly qualified doctors at 18 hospitals in the North-east of England found 60 per cent were drinking above the recommended safety limits of two pints of beer or equivalent a day for a man and one and a half pints for a woman. Ten doctors, four men and six women, were drinking at hazardous levels, defined as over 25 pints or equivalent a week for a man and 17.5 pints for a woman.

One man drank 42 pints a week (six a day) and one woman drank 30 pints (over four a day). Overall, the doctors' drinking had increased since they were medical students.

More than a third of the men and almost one-fifth of the women used cannabis and more than one in ten of both sexes said they used other illicit drugs including magic mushrooms, LSD, ecstasy, amyl nitrate and cocaine. The main reason they gave for their drug use was "pleasure."

The survey revealed that one-fifth of the men and nearly half the women had high levels of stress and anxiety, but this was related to pressures of work, not drink and drugs.

The authors, writing in *The Lancet*, say that the lifestyle of junior doctors uncovered by the survey is unlikely to be confined to the North-east. "The current drinking habits, illicit drug use and stress in some junior doctors is of concern, not only for their own well being, but also how they may affect patients' care."

They point out that mandatory urine screening is carried out by the British Army and some companies in Britain and among doctors in the United States. "Should routine or random drug and alcohol screening programmes be considered?" they ask.



Head and neck massage is one of the alternative therapies on offer at the Mind Body Spirit Festival at Alexandra Palace in London, ending on Sunday Tom Pilton

## Scientists find billions of tons of ice lying under the Moon's poles

THE MOON possesses up to 10 times more water than scientists previously thought possible, according to the latest results of a study that could become the basis of a plan to colonise the lunar landscape.

Analysis of the data sent from the *Lunar Prospector* satellite has shown that there are likely to be billions of tons of ice just under the Moon's surface, which could be used as drinking water and fuel for future manned missions.

Scientists from Nasa, the American space agency, originally thought that the signals sent back from the satellite in-

BY STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

dicated that water existed as a widely diffuse "frost" of frozen water in the lunar soil.

But further analysis indicates that large chunks of frozen water are present, having been deposited over thousands of years by ice-laden comets falling into shaded craters where the day-time temperature has never exceeded the melting point of water.

Ice would be easier to mine as a source of drinking water for the inhabitants of a lunar base

and would be a valuable source of energy.

Solar-generated electricity could split lunar water into hydrogen and oxygen, the essential ingredients of rocket fuel, making it feasible for the Moon to be used as a staging post to explore other planets.

Bill Feldman, a lunar scientist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, said the latest data, which is published in the journal *Science*, shows that the mission to explore the lunar surface has been an "overwhelming" success.

An instrument on board the

\$63m (£103m) satellite was able to identify the presence of small amounts of hydrogen on the lunar surface, which serves as a signature for the presence of water.

Scientists believe hydrogen is likely to be bound up in water molecules in the lunar soil, trapped in the cracks and crevices of craters near the poles that have never been exposed to direct sunlight.

"The data show clearly where the hydrogen is. It's localised in spots near the poles and it has been buried about half a metre or so," Dr Feldman said.

"In making our initial estimates, we assumed the water was spread over the footprint [area scanned by] the instrument. As we've gathered more data we've found that it's not spread out as we first assumed, but concentrated," he said.

Nasa scientists estimate that there may be as much as three billion tons of ice deposited at the lunar poles, with there being about 15 per cent more at the north pole.

Although the manned Apollo missions to the Moon failed to detect any water, scientists believe this was because the spacecraft landed near the

equator, where any water would quickly evaporate in the intense sunlight.

A satellite mission in 1994, called Clementine, suggested that there may be as much as a billion cubic metres of water at the lunar poles - enough to fill Lake Erie, one of the North American Great Lakes - but this result was disputed by some scientists.

The *Lunar Prospector* had the benefit of much more sensitive instruments, which could detect a cup of water in a cubic metre of lunar soil, with the result that it has produced a much larger estimate.

## Antibiotic misuse breeds diseases

DOCTORS AND patients must curb their appetite for antibiotics if the world is to preserve one of its most important pharmacological weapons against disease, the Government's chief medical officer said yesterday.

GPs are handing out more than 15 million inappropriate prescriptions for antibiotics each year and their overuse has led to the rapid growth of drug-resistant bacteria. Sir Kenneth Calman said the increase in drug resistance "ultimately jeopardises our continued ability to treat infections".

The chief medical officers of the European Union are to meet in Copenhagen next week to consider what must be done to tackle the problem. Anxiety at the scale of the threat has been growing for a decade and the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology warned last April that we risked seeing diseases emerge that were untreatable.

Last July, the Government's

By JEREMY LAURANCE

Public Health Laboratory Service reported that one in six infections with salmonella, the commonest source of food poisoning, was caused by a strain resistant to at least four drugs.

Yesterday, Sir Kenneth launched a report by the Standing Medical Advisory Committee which recommended no prescribing of antibiotics for coughs, colds or sore throats caused by a virus (the commonest sort). It said antibiotics for uncomplicated cystitis in women should be limited to three days. Ministers have accepted in principle the need for a national campaign to curb antibiotic use.

The *British Medical Journal* this week says the overuse of the drugs in farm animals as growth promoters is a bigger threat. It says 40 to 80 per cent of antibiotics used in agriculture are of "highly questionable" value.

Sir Kenneth said parents should not be put off taking

their children to the doctor when immediate treatment with antibiotics could be life-saving, as in meningitis, and patients should not be deterred from completing their full course of the drugs. He added: "The recommendations... to treat [antibiotics] as a valuable and non-renewable resource, to be treasured and conserved in everyone's interest."

The report says about 50 million prescriptions for antibiotics are dispensed in England each year - one for every member of the population. Of these, 80 per cent were from family doctors and, to a much smaller degree, dentists.

Dr Diana Walford, director of the Public Health Laboratory Service, who chaired the committee sub-group that produced the report, said about half the antibiotics prescribed by GPs were for coughs, colds, sore throats and other respiratory tract infections. Between two-thirds



Sir Kenneth: Warning

and three-quarters of these - accounting for up to 15 million prescriptions in England - were caused by viruses. But antibiotics are effective only against bacteria. Many patients were being given drugs that could not help them.

Dr Walford said: "You can take a view that there's a significant amount of unnecessary antibiotic prescription in general practice." But she said she did not want to apportion blame or start "casting stones". She added: "What we must do is to help patients understand the problem."

## Crop engineering 'failing' the hungry

BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPANIES that claim their genetically modified plants will feed the world are being disingenuous, according to a leading crop scientist.

Professor Dick Flavell, of the John Innes Centre for Plant Breeding, said yesterday that while the technology used to create transgenic plants could eventually reap bigger crops in developing countries, "the product those people need isn't the same as the products that the multinational companies are making". He added: "Unless they can get a financial return, why should companies like that be there?"

GeneWatch, a pressure group, also claimed that sustainable agriculture methods, rather than genetic engineering, have already shown benefits by increasing crop yields in countries such as Honduras, India and Burkina Faso. "However, despite their clear advantages, and in contrast to the

By CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Editor  
AND STEVE CONNOR

promotion of genetic engineering, these alternative approaches to agriculture have been starved of resources and research."

Professor Flavell said: "It is the governments and people dealing with the local plants' germ plasma, which doesn't have a commercial base, who hold the keys to continuing improvement of farming and agriculture." Every year the John Innes Centre, Norwich, trains 30 or more scientists from developing countries in gene transfer technology, which can be applied to plants to improve yields, he said. Better yields are needed to feed the growing world population, presently about 5 billion and expected to double in 50 years.

The criticisms emerged as research from the United States showed that genetically

modified crops are more promiscuous than ordinary crops. Thus they are more likely to create hybrid breeds of superweeds, which can spread unabated in the countryside.

The findings raise fresh doubts about the risks attached to growing crops with foreign genes. The fear is that the genes could "escape" into wild plants, creating superweeds resistant to control.

Joy Bergelson, assistant professor of ecology and evolution at the University of Chicago, said a field experiment on mustard plants in 1996 showed that there was an unexplained increase in the ability of transgenic plants to spread their pollen to nearby wild plants.

The experiment, reported in the journal *Nature*, found genes conferring resistance to a herbicide were 20 times more likely to pass from genetically modified plants than from naturally occurring mutants with the same resistance.

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weapons in the hands of their Hazar opponents, some still wrapped in their original Iranian military packaging.

In Tehran, the authorities have made a "strategic decision", according to *The Independent's* sources, that the "black Taliban" will never be allowed to rule Afghanistan alone. Iran seeks a coalition government in Kabul after ceasefire talks involving all of Afghanistan's neighbours.

In Pakistan, the Talibanists, the Irony of the situation is that Iran, the country usually regarded by the Americans as the "centre of world terror", is now opposing the conservative and crucial Taliban, which is protecting Osama bin Laden - officially America's "Public Enemy Number One" - from the same Taliban that is controlled by Washington's allies in Saudi Arabia.

If further provoked, Iran could attempt to spread chaos in the largely Turkmen city of Herat, whose long-standing trade links with Iran have been cut by the fighting.

The Taliban already has reports of looting and theft in international offices in the city.

Iran's border exercises include dozens of fighter-bomber aircraft, which are believed to have crossed and recrossed the Afghan border as a warning to the Taliban.

"There will never be Afghanistan controlled only by the Taliban", an Iranian source has told *The Independent*. "We will never allow that to happen."

The Taliban may prove equally stubborn.

# Schröder and Kohl slug out final duel

A NARROW win on points for the challenger was the general verdict after Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the Social Democrats' chancellor candidate, Gerhard Schröder, slugged it out for two hours yesterday in a heated clash, televised live to a nation baying for blood.

The venue was the Bundestag, the last gathering of German MPs before they disappear on the campaign trail for the general election on 27 September. The occasion was the debate over next year's budget, but about income and expenditure little was said.

Having backed out of a tele-



Schröder: Taunted Kohl

vision duel, this was Chancellor Kohl's moment to demonstrate his parliamentary skills and to expose the barrenness of Mr Schröder's policies. He may have succeeded in the second objective, but his rambling 80-minute speech, dwelling on his historical achievements, was definitely not what the spin-doctors had ordered.

The most memorable soundbite clearly came from Mr Schröder and, judging by the frown on Mr Kohl's face, it hurt. "You have lost yourself in the past, that's the problem," he declared.

There were more insults of the same kind, turning the spotlight on Mr Kohl's age - 68 - and his extraordinarily long tenure: 16 years.

"That is a speech about the past," Mr Schröder mocked, as the incumbent strode off the rostrum. "You are incapable of handling the future."

Mr Kohl's colleagues had dug up embarrassing quotes from Mr Schröder from way

BY IMRE KARACS  
in Bonn

back, and scathing criticism was levelled at his putative ministers.

Mr Schröder responded by pretending to reveal the Kohl camp's innermost thoughts: "The people in your own party feel that with you they cannot win. At the outset of the campaign we had declared, 'Thank you, Helmut, but that will do.' Your people have already forgotten the word 'Dank'."

Mr Kohl's slurs were comparatively tame. He accused Mr Schröder of acting like "Pavlov's dog", reacting against all government measures on reflex. The Chancellor and his lieutenants fired questions at Mr Schröder, seeking a few clues as to his policies. None came.

The government did, however, manage to wrong-foot the opposition for one moment. To the Social Democrats' obvious dismay, Theo Waigel, the finance minister, had incorporated in his budget a DM10bn (€3.5bn) tax giveaway, to take effect next January. Would this be the same DM10bn the SPD had promised in its election manifesto?

Mr Schröder, no stranger to borrowing the clothes of others, took it as a back-handed compliment. "It pleases me," he said, "that three-and-a-half weeks before the elections, you have ditched your unaffordable tax model and picked up the SPD's."

The rest was pure husting. Mr Kohl, endeavouring to be statesmanlike, spoke about his role in German reunification, and tried to put a positive gloss on the problems encountered since in eastern Germany. "Of course people had expectations there that could not be fulfilled in such a short time," he said. "But just as clearly, the picture has been improving."

Unemployment was also about to improve, with the number of jobless due to fall soon to under 4 million. A "clear turn around" in the labour market was in sight.

Mr Schröder alleged that the Chancellor was out of touch. "You either do not know, or do not want to know, how ordinary people live."



The wife of a worker from Mando Machinery of South Korea, whose staff are striking over job cuts, using her child to hold back riot police at the company's factory in Asan. Thousands of police attacked strikers at six of the auto parts plants around the country yesterday

## World's largest Rubens collection to be unveiled at restored Prado

THE PRADO Museum in Madrid, continuing its efforts to haul itself into the new millennium, is to open 12 newly refurbished rooms devoted to 17th-century Dutch and Flemish masters, including a collection of works by Rubens that it says is the biggest and finest in the world.

The rooms, which will open on Monday on the gallery's principal floor, contain 160 works: two-thirds of them splendidly restored.

They include 20 paintings dusted off from the vaults to be revealed for the first time to the public.

Among the jewels on show are Rembrandt's *Artemis*, portraying his wife, Saskia, which after restoration seems to emit its own light; a collection of Van Dycks, including a portrait of the Englishman Sir Endymion Porter with the artist; and many Rubens masterpieces,

BY ELIZABETH NASH  
in Madrid

including *The Three Graces* and *The Judgement of Paris*.

One room is devoted to Rubens' equestrian portraits, anticipating a style favoured by Velazquez, with whom Rubens worked at the Spanish court.

Another room contains a dozen Rubens cartoons on mythological themes for tapestries commissioned by King Felipe IV for his hunting lodge, and yet another contains 12 Rubens portraits of the Apostles, which show the influence of Caravaggio.

Next week's opening will

relieve the worst of what the museum's authorities admit is a miserable chaos of building works, improvised displays and cramped quarters. However, the full improvement and enlargement process still has years to go.

Most of the Prado's Flemish works were commissioned or

acquired by Spanish monarchs and aristocrats to adorn their palaces, so the new rooms have been fitted out as palatial salons, rather than as municipal galleries.

The paintings have been arranged decoratively in thematic groups, rather than hung side by side as they were before in a chilly assembly line.

Responding to criticisms that the museum's labelling in the past has been cryptic to the point of incomprehensibility, the new displays have discreet but informative labels.

The latest expansion follows the triumphant inauguration last November of 10 rooms devoted to 18th-century European art.

In December the Spanish culture ministry is to announce expansion plans for the Prado to include an adjoining former cloister and the nearby military museum.



'Diana and Calisto', 'The Three Graces' and 'The Judgement of Paris' - all by Rubens, and among star attractions on show at the Prado in Madrid

## North Korea primes new missile

JAPANESE, SOUTH Korean and United States' forces were on heightened alert yesterday after signs that North Korea was planning to fire another ballistic missile, two days after provoking outrage by carrying out a long-range test launch over northern Japan.

Government officials in

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY  
in Tokyo

Seoul told the South Korean news agency Yonhap that US spy satellites and reconnaissance aircraft had detected preparations for a second missile test, three days after the launch of a two-stage Taepo

Dong I, which flew 1,300 miles over Japanese territory to land in the Pacific Ocean.

Japanese naval ships have been sent to the Sea of Japan, according to reports, where the booster stage of the first missile landed last Monday afternoon.

On the coast of South Korea,

military units were said to have been placed on increased alert, and the US announced that it had sent six additional bomber aircraft to its Pacific base on the island of Guam, although officials later suggested that they had merely been sent for training purposes.

Japanese officials said that the second missile was apparently a short-range weapon and that it was unlikely to be ready for launch before tomorrow, when North Korea's Supreme Assembly meets in the capital, Pyongyang.

The likelihood is believed to be next Wednesday, the 50th anniversary of the founding of North Korea, when the country's leader, Kim Jong Il, is expected to be formally elected president of the Stalinist republic.

## Cyanide in tea kills man as Japanese poisonings spread

IN THE latest of a string of bizarre poisonings that have embarrassed and mystified Japanese police all summer, a middle-aged man died after drinking a can of iced tea that had apparently been poisoned with cyanide.

According to doctors in Obuse in the mountainous Nagano prefecture, Ichijiro Nakazawa, 58, died of heart failure on Monday shortly after drinking oolong tea bought from a local supermarket.

The can was found to have a small hole in its base, covered with tape, through which cyanide is believed to have been injected.

The incident was disclosed only yesterday, a day after a sim-

ilar can was discovered by a supermarket employee in a neighbouring town. He spat out the bitter-tasting drink, which was later discovered to contain cyanide, a small hole in the tray of a vending machine.

These appear to be the latest in what is turning into a plague of unsolved, apparently random and motiveless poisoning incidents.

The poisonings began in July, when four people were

killed and 60 made ill after eating curry laced with cyanide at a local festival in central Japan. The police got off to a bad start when they misidentified the poison used, thus causing confusion among doctors treating the patients. They have made no discernible progress in finding the perpetrator.

A few weeks later, a group of workers on the other side of the country were treated in hospital after someone spiked their tea with sodium azide, a rare chemical used in the manufacture of car air-bags. Late last month, children at a school in Tokyo were sent bottles of disinfectant labelled as diet drinks. A boy who drank from one is still in hospital.

## Minister rejects sex and murder claims

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

THE SACKED Malaysian finance minister, Anwar Ibrahim, accused the Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, of cooking up accusations that he slept with prostitutes, sodomised his chauffeur, fathered an illegitimate child, committed murder and betrayed the country.

At a packed press conference 24 hours after his dismissal and with his arrest apparently imminent, Mr Anwar spoke of a "political conspiracy" masterminded from the top.

He said Dr Mahathir, who has led Malaysia for 17 years, intended to undermine his position as a potential challenger to him. Mr Anwar said that he might be arrested under the official secrets act or the internal security act, a draconian law regularly employed against opponents of the government, which allows police to imprison people indefinitely and without charge.

"I am totally surprised and shocked to see that the instruments of government could have been used in such a despicable manner to stage this conspiracy to oust me," Mr Anwar said.

"Since they realise that I cannot be defeated in the political arena through the democratic process, they resort to dirty and disgusting means... to slander me, frame allegations and force witnesses to make false statements," he added. "This is an unjust administration. If the No 3 man cannot be sure of justice, then I'm sorry for Malaysia."

The allegations have been circulating for months in the form of poison-pen letters and a book entitled *Fifty Reasons Why Anwar Cannot Become Prime Minister*, whose author is being sued for defamation by the former minister.

Yesterday, Malaysia's official Bernama press agency printed the details of an affidavit filed by the chief of police in which he cited alleged evidence of sexual offences and bribe-taking.

Malaysian newspapers have shed their caution about discussing the rumours concerning Mr Anwar, 52. "The local media, led by certain people, are also deliberately undermining me," he said, by accusing him of everything "from sex scandals to murder, and being an agent for a foreign nation, corruption and treason."

"I told the Prime Minister that by naming 100 prostitutes who had sex [with me] will not alter the fact that this is a lie... I told them also that I can pay some money to get some prostitutes to admit to having sex with some others if that is the game you want to play," he said.

Until this week, Mr Anwar was the second most powerful man in Malaysia, an economic liberal respected by conservative Muslims at home, and by foreign businessmen and politicians. Last May, during a visit to the capital, Kuala Lumpur, the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, referred to him as a "good friend". But yesterday, his former supporters in his party, the United Malays National Organisation, appeared to be distancing themselves from him. Whatever the truth of the allegations, his position now looks insecure.

One of his closest friends, S Nallakuruppan, has been arrested on arms charges after ammunition was allegedly found at his home by police. The charges carry a mandatory death penalty. According to the police, Mr Nallakuruppan acted as a pimp for Mr Anwar, who passed state secrets to him.

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## Mandela does U-turn on Congo military aid

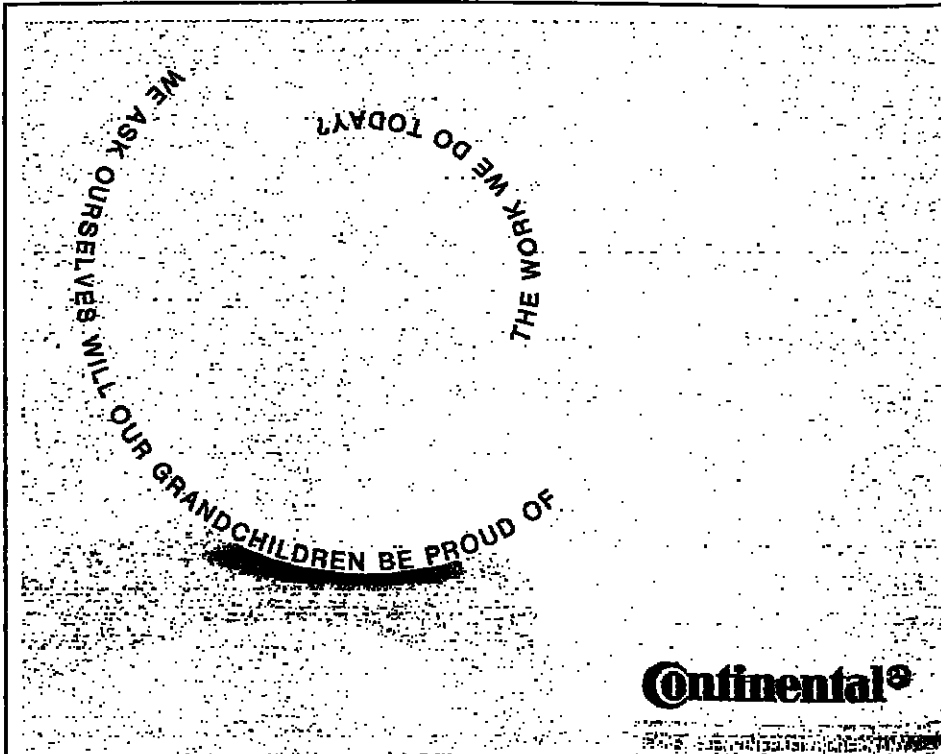
IN A STARTLING shift in its diplomatic policy, the South African government has said it now supports the intervention of Angolan, Namibian and Zimbabwean troops on the side of Congo's President Laurent Kabila.

President Nelson Mandela said yesterday the shift did not conflict with regional attempts to broker a ceasefire in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He said that in the face of aggression, President Kabila had the right to call for military help.

Mr Mandela was speaking after a meeting of Southern African Development Community members, attended by the UN Secretary General, Kofi

Annan. One South African official said military intervention had helped to create a certain balance between the warring parties in Congo and could help lead towards a ceasefire. This view was echoed by Mr Mandela at a news conference held with Mr Annan, and the Secretary General of the Organisation of African Unity, Salim Ahmed Salim. All three men attended a meeting of heads of state from the Southern African Development Community, called to discuss the conflict in Congo.

South African officials say that a diplomatic initiative can work hand-in-hand with military intervention.



0845 601 2000



# Value of rouble halves in three days

By Phil Reeves  
in Moscow

BORIS YELTSIN returned to the negotiating table yesterday in an effort to end his stand-off with parliament amid a worsening crisis that saw the rouble plunge to a new low and police guards patrolling at food plants in Moscow.

Food hoarding is gathering pace in the capital, after the drop of the rouble to a fixed rate of 13.4 to the dollar. Street prices were as low as 18, nearly one-third of the value before devaluation, and half of what they were on Monday. Shelves that were until recently crammed with imported goods have suddenly begun to look thin, as fears take hold that Russia could see a return to the food shortages and endless queues of the last years of the Soviet Union.

As the rouble tumbled, there was a fresh rush to the banks by Muscovites whose savings are dwindling by the hour. The deterioration of the economic climate came as President Yeltsin dispatched his chief-of-staff, Valentin Yumashev, to parliament in an effort to end a stalemate that has left Russia without a functioning government since the last one was sacked last month.

Mr Yumashev carried what the Kremlin described as a "slightly amended" version of an earlier rejected offer, in which President Yeltsin agreed to forgo some of his powers in return for parliament's approval of his unpopular acting prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The State Duma, or lower house, is expected to vote for a second time on the premier's candidacy today, but the odds favour his rejection. The Communists, who have 138 of the 450 seats in the chamber, and the 45-strong liberal Yabloko party remain adamantly opposed to him, though 51 seats of the nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party - which has long been open to offers from the Kremlin - have come out in support of the nomination.

Predictions by General Alexander Lebed, who is notorious for his rhetorical outbursts, that Russia could see a repeat of the 1917 revolution



Muscovites try to get into a bank to withdraw their savings. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the acting prime minister, has urged Russians to think carefully before switching their savings into the state savings bank, Sberbank, from other commercial banks

were dismissed as wildly exaggerated by political analysts, and there is no sign that unrest is imminent.

However, the Defence Minister, Marshal Igor Sergeev, sounded a warning note. The armed forces - long in a state of semi-collapse - were "not in a festive mood."

"They feel the same as the rest of Russians do. They are worrying over when the situation will stabilise, and the government will take the economic helm. God forbid we have a repetition of 1993", Marshal Sergeev said, referring to the year when Mr Yeltsin's parliament was dissolved.

Another measure of the underlying tension was the appearance of police guards at food depots in the capital. If Mr Chernomyrdin loses today's vote, Mr Yeltsin and the Duma both face a tough gamble. Another rejection at a third vote next week would lead to the dissolution of parliament, and Mr

Yeltsin would be able to finally install his government.

However, the President is acutely aware that the next Duma - which must be elected within four months - is certain to be far more hostile and could quickly throw out his government with two successive no-confidence votes. The prospect

of being disbanded is far from popular in the Duma, particularly among members who fear losing their jobs in a sweeping Communist victory.

There is a further complication: under Russian electoral law, political parties must register for elections one year before they are held. None of

them did so before this May, a fact that could, theoretically, ban parties from any ballot until the early summer.

In another effort to boost confidence in his ability to govern, the beleaguered Mr Chernomyrdin is promising to make a "sensational" speech in which he will outline solutions to the

economic mess, drawn up by a crisis team of reformist officials, including the former chief taxman, Boris Fyodorov.

Yesterday the prime minister designate reiterated his intention to set up a "government of accord", which suggests that he is willing to include some Communists in his cabinet.



Viktor Chernomyrdin  
Acting prime minister  
Called for calm on the eve of the crucial Duma vote



Vladimir Zhirinovskiy  
Liberal Democratic leader  
Promised his party's support to Chernomyrdin



Gennady Zyuganov  
Communist leader  
Determined to reject Chernomyrdin again

## EUROPEAN TIMES BUDAPEST

### I saw that Tsar in the back of a carriage once

IT WAS the winter of 1913. Europe was on the brink of war and revolution simmered in Russia. Natalia Puhlimskaya had been given the day off from school, in the southern Russian city of Krasnodar, to cheer the Tsar. Nicholas II did not cut a very imposing figure, even for an eight-year-old schoolgirl.

"He was travelling with the hetman, the Cossack leader. We all thought the hetman was the Tsar; he was dressed in such finery, while the Tsar just sat there, hunched up like a little soldier."

The Tsar had five years to live before he was shot in Yekaterinburg. Those bullets ushered in a new world for Russia and helped to shape Natalia's life. Her father perished in Stalin's purges; her brother, Sergei, killed himself in exile in Paris after fighting for the Whites in the revolution. Her late husband, Pal Sos, a Hungarian Communist, served as a doctor at the front during the Battle of Stalingrad. She was a major in the Red Army medical corps.

Born in 1905, she is one of the few who can recall those decades that shook the world. "My father was a delegate to the Congress of Workers and Soldiers in Moscow at the end of the [First World] War," she says. "There was a great feeling of tension in the air; it was the beginning of the Revolution and you could feel it, it was extraordinary. We felt the old system was collapsing and we would build something new to take its place."

"Our town [Krasnodar] was always shifting back and forth between the Reds and the Whites in the civil war. Our neighbours played revolutionary songs on their piano, while my brother Sergei played 'God save the Tsar' [the old Russian national anthem] on



Natalia Puhlimskaya, who as a child saw the Tsar, 'hunched up like a little soldier' Andrea Ancu-Strauss



Bela Kun, leader of the short-lived Hungarian Soviet Republic of 1919, disappeared in the purges. A word of denunciation from a neighbour was enough to earn a trip to the Gulag, and a foreign husband just increased the danger. "Everyone was scared. Fear was in the air and there were spies everywhere."

his mandolin. When the Whites had Krasnodar there were British soldiers billeted in our school.

"When the Reds finally won they moved some Cossacks into our flat. One of them painted huge moustaches all over my picture book. The Reds ... stopped people using money and gave out ration cards. We stood in line to get our food, barley soup and barley cutlets, sometimes potatoes."

The civil war tore apart her family. While Natalia supported the Bolsheviks, Sergei passed by one day with the White army on a brief visit. It was the last time she saw him. "My parents weren't at home, and I ran a bath for him. He fled to Sofia and eventually France. He sent us many postcards and took a job in Paris as a railway porter. Then the postcards stopped. He committed suicide."

By the late 1930s Natalia was working outside Moscow in a hospital and had married Pal Sos. They were years of terror in the Soviet Union, and many of the foreign Communists she knew, such as

During the war Natalia was sent back to Moscow, while her husband was sent to a military hospital on the Stalingrad front, sorting casualties into those who could be saved and those who could not. "They worked under terrible conditions, in incredible cold. The only way to keep going was to drink vodka, which they got as part of their rations. Sometimes they worked for three days and nights, non-stop."

In 1988 her father, an adult education teacher, was arrested. "They took him without the right of correspondence, so we couldn't write to him. In Moscow I met one of his colleagues who had a relation in the same camp, who told us he was working as a stoker. But we never had a letter, so we don't know how he died."

"It was a great mistake to demolish the Soviet Union, instead of reorganising it. It was Stalin's fault - he killed so many of the intelligentsia, all the people with brains. That's why someone like [Boris] Yeltsin has come to power in all this chaos, and why the rouble has collapsed. They wanted to change everything so quickly. You can't do that in Russia."

ADAM LEBOR

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# BUSINESS

## BRIEFING

### Names claim victory at Lloyds

INDIVIDUAL NAMES claimed victory yesterday in their battle to stay on at the Lloyd's of London insurance market, as they were assured there would be no moves to force them out.

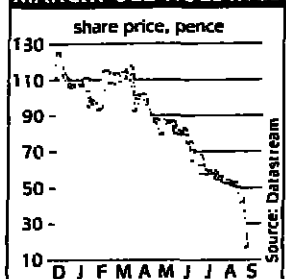
Max Taylor, chairman of Lloyd's, said there would be no move to abolish the annual venture, the means by which Names bring their capital to the market every year.

Names have been seeking the assurance since earlier this year when Ron Sandler, chief executive, attacked the annual venture and said it was impeding Lloyd's competitiveness. Michael Deeny, chairman of the Association of Lloyd's Members, said: "I believe Names are here to stay at Lloyd's and we now have a clear commitment to fair and equitable treatment that will enable us to trade forward."

Lloyd's said it was now leaving the decisions to the free market. Names are already being offered increasing amounts to sell their underwriting capacity by corporate members of Lloyd's. They now underwrite well under 40 per cent of Lloyd's business.

### Analysts scrutinise Marchpole

#### MARCHPOLE HOLDINGS



THE CREDIBILITY of Marchpole, the retail group which designs and distributes Yves Saint Laurent menswear, was being questioned by City analysts yesterday after the group reported profits far below expectations. Marchpole shares lost 54 per cent to close 22p lower at 18.5p. The shares were priced at 110p when the company came to the stock

market in December. It blamed its profits shortfall on higher costs and the Asian crisis delaying development of its Japanese business. Half year profits fell to £2.4m against £4.9m last time and margins collapsed.

SG Securities, the company's original broker, quit in protest two months ago. Analysts questioned why Marchpole had delivered two statements in the last few months saying trading was healthy. Full year profits are now expected to be only £8m instead of about £16m.

### Wickes goes after DIY people

WICKES, the DIY retailer that traditionally targets builders merchants, is updating to get more business from DIY enthusiasts, after six "test" stores sales rose 20% since April. Investment column, page 19

## FTSE slide wipes out a year's gains

GLOOM RETURNED to the City last night as shares slumped by more than 100 points to wipe out investors' entire profit for the year.

The FTSE 100 closed down 117.1 points at 5,118.7, below the 5,113.5 level at which the market began the year, as the Dow Jones Industrials' half-hearted recovery on Wall Street ran out of steam and US shares resumed their slide.

Salomon Smith Barney, the Wall Street brokerage, recommended that clients cut their holdings in stock and move into cash as the Dow slipped to 7,675.55, down 105.82 on the

By ANDREW GARFIELD

day. European bourses were also hit again, with banks in the firing line as concerns about the impact of the Russian crisis on profits continued to weigh on investors' minds.

The pound also retreated as the latest UK purchasing managers survey showed service sector activity slowing markedly in August. The activity index was down from 55.9 to 54.3, its lowest level since the survey started in July 1996. Sterling fell by nearly three pence to DM2.895.

The Bank of England has

been concerned at the strong growth in services and the upward pressure on wages, particularly for computing staff. However, economists said that a cut in British interest rates may be further away than the markets now expect.

The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee meets next week against a background of mounting concern about the impact of the Russian and Asian crises and the stock market collapse on economic activity.

David Coleman, economist at CIBC Wood Gundy in London, said: "More modest

growth in services will be welcomed by the Bank of England. But not so welcome, we feel, that it will countenance rate cuts this year."

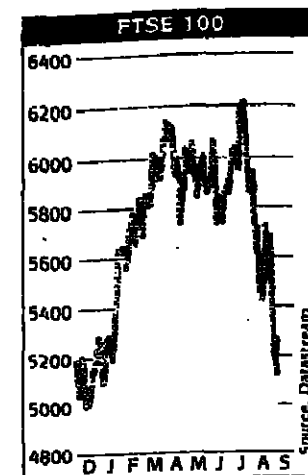
The survey covers 30 per cent of the UK economy.

Kevin Darlington at ABN-Amro said: "Although the economy continues to slow, there is little evidence that the labour market is adjusting quickly enough to ameliorate the pay pressures that remain the Monetary Policy Committee's primary concern."

Hopes of a resolution to Russia's financial crisis seemed as remote as ever yesterday,

amid reports of Western companies flying supplies of dollars in by the suitcase-load. The rouble plunged yet again, slumping another 24 per cent to close at 13.48 to the dollar in the first official trading in over a week.

Russians mobbed banks following orders from the central bank to six of Russia's largest private sector banks to freeze deposits for six months. Ordinary savers are to be given the option of transferring their accounts to Sberbank, the Russian state savings bank. Dollar savings will have to be changed into roubles at Tuesday's rate of 9.33 to the dollar.



## Shell and Texaco pact slashes costs in Europe

By ANDREW GARFIELD  
Financial Editor

HUNDREDS OF UK jobs could be at risk after the oil giants, Shell and Texaco, yesterday announced their long-awaited deal merging the two companies' Europe-wide refining and marketing businesses.

The deal, which enables the pair to overtake BP as the biggest operator of petrol stations in the UK, follows a similar three-way agreement in the US with Texaco and Saudi Aramco, although it is less ambitious in terms of cost reductions being targeted. Shell yesterday talked of potential cost savings of \$200m (£120m) a year compared with the \$1bn anticipated from the US deal.

Shares in the Anglo-Dutch group spiked up in early trading in London and Amsterdam despite Shell saying that this deal was not "the first step towards a full-blown merger". The shares later fell back as the markets succumbed to wider worries later in the day. Shell ended down 5p at 330p.

Shell yesterday admitted that some job losses were inevitable, but insisted that further details - including whether the combination resulted in closures of refining plant - had yet to be hammered out.

Analysts expect the deal to be closely scrutinised by the UK Office of Fair Trading and the European Commission, although the key stumbling block may lie in the Netherlands, where Shell already has 800 stations to add to Texaco's 557. Oil specialists Wood Mackenzie estimated combined market



Shell and Texaco together will have more than 2,500 UK petrol stations, well ahead of the current top two, BP and Esso

Emma Broom

shares at 42.3 per cent in Holland, 28.2 per cent in Belgium, 32 per cent in Ireland and 32.7 per cent in Luxembourg.

In the UK where Shell now has 1,841 stations after taking over 228 from Gulf at the end of last year, the combined total will stand at more than 2,500. That will put them well ahead of both BP and Esso, which lead the market with more than 1,800 outlets each.

Competition in the UK retail

market is a highly sensitive issue. There have been three Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigations in recent times. The Office of Fair Trading mounted its own investigation earlier this year following complaints about Esso's Price-watch campaign, but cleared the industry in May.

Shell will be in the driving seat in what is effectively a takeover of the Texaco operations by its European rival.

Shell will have 88 per cent of the joint venture, leaving Texaco with 12 per cent.

Analysts welcomed the deal as "a step in the right direction". Andrew Marshall at Robert Fleming said: "Rates of return in downstream are miserable. Anything you can do to improve profitability is welcome."

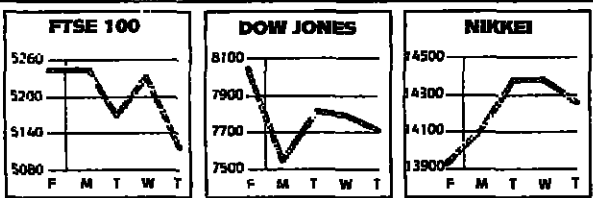
However, on Wall Street, Fadel Gheit at Fehnestock & Co criticised the decision to keep the two brands separate as in-

dicative of dithering on the Anglo-Dutch group's part. "It is like a man and wife retaining two separate bank accounts. It eradicates most of the benefits you would expect from consolidating operations."

Shell has come under fire from the City for its failure to respond aggressively to the sharp fall in the oil price and the dramatic shift since this summer's mega-merger between rival BP and Amoco of the US.

In an attempt to rehabilitate itself in the eyes of investors, Shell last year set itself a target of 15 per cent return on capital by 2001. However, with the oil price at a 25-year low, the group is further away from the goal than last year. Shell Transport and Trading, the company's UK shareholding arm, has underperformed the FTSE by 28 per cent, while Texaco has seen its shares rise 5 per cent in spite of the oil price slide.

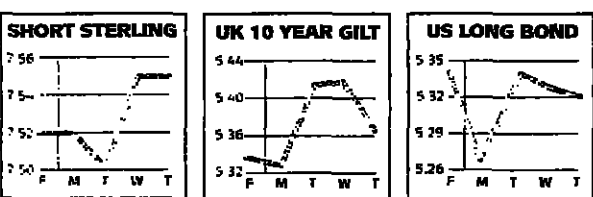
## STOCK MARKETS



Dow Jones Index and graph at 5pm

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5118.70	-117.10	-2.24	6183.70	4382.80	3.84
FTSE 250	4648.80	-63.20	-1.34	5970.90	4428.30	4.30
FTSE 350	2450.80	-52.00	-2.08	2969.10	2141.80	3.92
FTSE All Share	2376.16	-46.56	-1.95	2888.52	2106.59	3.93
FTSE SmallCap	2064.20	-13.10	-0.63	2793.80	2044.80	3.94
FTSE Fidelity	1155.30	-4.60	-0.40	1517.10	1140.20	4.36
FTSE AIM	871.40	-10.10	-1.15	1146.90	862.80	1.45
FTSE EBIOL 100	891.51	-21.34	-2.34	...	...	...
Dow Jones	7702.56	-84.96	-1.09	9367.84	6971.32	1.93
Nikkei	14261.24	-115.38	-0.80	18775.08	13864.74	1.07
Hang Seng	7318.99	-37.08	-0.50	15242.65	6944.79	5.63
Dax	4812.18	-158.32	-3.19	6217.83	3487.24	3.34

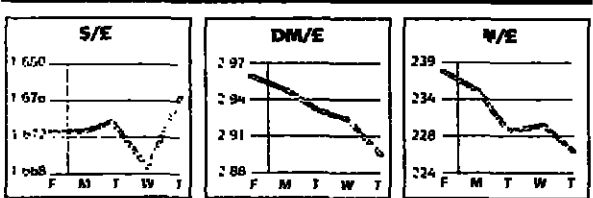
## INTEREST RATES



at 5pm

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	7.62	0.30	7.38	-0.20	5.37	-1.63	5.06	-1.89
US	5.59	-0.13	5.50	-0.53	5.04	-1.29	5.32	-1.28
Japan	0.61	0.04	0.61	-0.04	1.38	-0.87	1.93	-0.95
Germany	3.48	0.17	3.63	-0.02	4.25	-1.44	5.06	-1.30

## CURRENCIES



at 5pm

POUND				DOLLAR			
	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago		at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6765	+0.70%	1.5863	Sterling	0.5965	-0.25p	0.6304
D-Mark	2.8942	-2.66p	2.8812	D-Mark	1.7270	-2.37p	1.8159
Yen	225.58	-44.37	191.52	Yen	134.48	-43.24	120.82
£ Index	104.40	-0.60	100.60	£ Index	110.80	-1.50	106.50

## OTHER INDICATORS

	Close	Chg	Yr Ago		Index	Chg	Yr Ago	Next Rpt
Brent Oil (\$)	12.62	0.55	18.17	GDP	115.40	2.50	112.48	Sept
Gold (\$)	284.15	4.00	322.00	RPI	163.00	3.50	157.49	Sept
Silver (\$)	4.81	-0.04	4.63	Base Rates	7.50	7.00		
								*at 5pm

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

## TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.7543	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.20
Austria (schillings)	19.83	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1871
Belgium (francs)	58.41	New Zealand (\$)	3.1921
Canada (\$)	2.5007	Norway (krone)	12.58
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8284	Portugal (escudos)	286.30
Denmark (krone)	10.84	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.0899
Finland (markka)	8.6497	Singapore (\$)	2.8115
France (francs)	9.4704	Spain (pesetas)	239.72
Germany (marks)	2.8397	South Africa (rand)	9.8039
Greece (drachma)	482.47	Sweden (krone)	12.93
Hong Kong (\$)	12.56	Switzerland (francs)	2.3452
Ireland (pounds)	1.1236	Thailand (bahts)	61.82
India (rupees)	65.37	Turkey (liras)	446056
Israel (shekels)	5.9243	USA (\$)	1.6326
Italy (lira)	2805		
Japan (yen)	223.95		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.0896		
Malta (lira)	0.6211		

Rates for information purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

## Eidos signs up Michael Owen Kinnock boost for BA in row over selling landing slots

MICHAEL OWEN, England's World Cup star, has cashed in on his growing popularity by signing up to promote football games for computer games group Eidos in a deal that could be worth hundreds of thousands of pounds, writes Peter Thal Larsen.

The teenage Liverpool striker has been brought in to endorse a new version of World League Soccer which should be in the shops by Christmas.

Eidos chief executive Charles Cornwall said the company had signed Owen in an exclusive deal stretching over several years. Although he refused to comment on how much the footballer was receiving, industry experts said the deal, which

is likely to be linked to game sales, would be worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Michael Owen may also promote Eidos' other football products that include the popular Championship Manager.

The news came as Eidos reported a pre-tax loss of £2.3m against £8.6m in the same period of last year, with turnover soaring 175 per cent to £25.8m.

Eidos shares, which have fallen sharply in recent months, jumped 25p to close at 707p. Eidos, best known for Tomb Raider, is planning to release Tomb Raider 3 at Christmas.

Mr Cornwall said: "It's safe to say we are always looking at things," when asked about persistent acquisition rumours.

NEIL KINNOCK, the European Transport Commissioner, yesterday promised moves to allow airlines to sell their landing slots - one of the most sensitive issues surrounding the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines.

Mr Kinnock's intervention comes weeks after BA was told by the European Commission that it should not be allowed financial compensation for the 267 slots it is being asked to relinquish to allow its proposed alliance with American Airlines to go ahead.

Under current EU law, agreed by the Council of Ministers in 1993, the sale of slots is not permitted. That position was contradicted by the direc-

By STEPHEN CASTLE  
IN BRUSSELS

tor-general of fair trading, John Bridgeman, who argued: "I remain firmly of the view that grandfather rights have a substantial monetary value which, one way or another, is recognised now when slots change hands." That advice was published a month ago by the new Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Peter Mandelson.

Yesterday Mr Kinnock appeared to be siding with the OFT in a passage highlighting the BA/AA case. The Transport Commissioner told a conference in London: "I will, in due course, be publishing reform proposals in order to permit fi-

nanial payment for slots under terms which will safeguard market entry and competition.

"Such legal changes are, however, not likely to be rapidly agreed and the reality that will prevail for at least another two or three years is that the sale of airport slots in the European union is not legal."

Although the initiative does not hold out any direct prospect of a change of heart in the time scale needed by BA, it will strengthen the airline's argument. A source within the BA said: "We have always advocated that the most efficient way of allocating this scarce resource is to have a market in it. If you can sell slots, why not landing slots?"

Mr Kinnock's comments underline the long-standing tension between himself and Karel Van Miert, the Competition Commissioner. Mr Van Miert has taken a tough line against the sale of slots, arguing that it would undermine attempts to increase airline competition. Mr Kinnock, whose speech called for greater liberalisation of European aviation, has long been known to favour trading in slots.

Last month BA ordered aircraft worth up to £5.5bn from the European supplier Airbus, dealing its usual US supplier, Boeing, a blow. That prompted speculation that the airline might receive favourable treatment from regulatory bodies.

## AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

### LONDON

EQUITIES fell sharply, hit by heavy falls on Wall Street and other bourses. The FTSE 100 bore the brunt of the selling, ending the day 117.1 lower at 5,118.7. It has now lost all the gains made since the start of the year. The second liners fared slightly better, with the FTSE 250 losing 63.2 to 4,648.8 and the small cap losing 13.1 to 2,068.2.

Enterprise Oil, the exploration and production company, was the worst blue-chip performer, losing 12 per cent after poor interims.

Market report, page 19

### NEW YORK

US STOCKS were off in late-morning trading, with Wall Street expecting key indices to retest their lows from earlier in the week.

"It's pretty clear that the relief rally is over," said Tony Dwyer, chief market strategist at Ladenburg Thalmann.

At 4.30pm EST, the Dow was off 97 points at 7,686. Earlier, it shed 151, but regained some losses in volatile trading. Banks and companies tied to emerging markets' profits headed the fall as shares plunged around the world.

### TOKYO

STOCKS ENDED lower amid deepening worries over the bleak economic climate weighing on Japanese corporations, traders said. The Nikkei 225 ended down all but 1 per cent at 14,261.24. But the yen strengthened against the dollar on worries about the US economy and stock market: the yen was at 135.78/88 by the close in Tokyo.

A sharp cut in Hitachi's earnings forecast jarred the stock market, and news that Toa Steel would make a decision on liquidation today hurt sentiment further.

### FRANKFURT

SHARES closed more than 3 per cent lower in thin late trading. Sharp falls in the rouble and reports that a trade union wants a 4 per cent wage rise added to uncertainty. The Xetra DAX closed at 4,797.13, down 151.38.

US brokers were also revising down their estimates of German GDP growth next year. One trader estimated the revision to comprise "3 to 4 percentage points". Banks were down: Deutsche lost 4.71 per cent and Dresdner 6.7 per cent.

### RUSSIA

RUSSIA's main RTS index closed down 6.40 per cent at 61.43, just above its all-time low of 61.15 on a minute turnover of \$1.18m. Dealers said investors, badly burnt by Westerners in particular, are not expected to return until the country's desperate economic and political situation has been solved.

The Russian central bank set its official rouble-dollar rate for September 4 at 13.4608 to the dollar, weaker than the previous 12.8198. The rouble has now slid 52 per cent since the August 17 "devaluation".

09/01/00 1:50



# Shell shows unnerving signs of life

WAS THAT movement we just witnessed in Shell, the sleeping giant of the oil majors? Yes indeed, the company we have traditionally been sure of as big, boring, and filled with barbiturates, seems finally to have aroused itself sufficiently from its slumbers to do a not insignificant deal. Uncharacteristically for Shell, which has stoically resisted the modern management taste for cost cutting, it also involves some \$200m of annual cost savings.

The question is whether this is a full awakening we are about to witness or just another transitory break in the big sleep. The Anglo Dutch oil major is merging its European marketing and refining operations into a joint venture with those of Texaco. While this stops short of the fully blown merger with Texaco that everyone has been speculating about since BP and Amoco announced they were getting hitched, it is plainly a big step in the right direction.

Largely unnoticed and usually unreported, Shell has actually done a whole host of things in an effort to improve on its lamentably poor return on capital over the past year, selling off superfluous interests here and closing others there.



## OUTLOOK

But the sheer size of the organisation has meant the effect has so far been marginal. At 3 to 4 percentage points below the leaders, Shell still has the lowest return on capital employed of all seven oil majors. Given that Shell is the second largest, this would seem a pretty poor show.

If Shell cares about this, it certainly doesn't show it. Unlike BP which has reinvented itself in the 1990s along American 'can do', high executive remuneration lines, Shell has turned a deaf ear to the call of shareholder value. At virtually every level, Shell is seriously overmanned compared to its competitors and curiously enough management seems to be positively proud of it.

Executives have tried all kinds of wacky ideas for injecting a bit of positive energy into the organisation - including, unbelievably, securing the services of a Buddhist monk to exorcise the bad karma - but seem culturally incapable of doing the one thing that tends always to do the trick in the seriously overweight - reducing the head count.

In any other company of this size, the City would long ago have acted. Despite attempts to reorganise internationally along product lines, Shell remains essentially a collection of national fiefdoms and its management by committee, Anglo Dutch corporate and capital structure, seem to make it largely immune to the pressures of shareholder activists.

Shell prides itself on the paternalism of its corporate culture, and nobody disputes that this has fostered some of the best talents in the industry. But in the end, the function of management is to make the assets sweat. That's how ultimately Mark Moody Stuart, chairman of Shell Transport & Trading, is going to be judged, not for running a university of excellence. As Niall Fitzgerald at Unilever has shown,

it can be done, even in unwieldy Anglo Dutch multinationals.

## Enterprise Oil

SHELL MAY be all at sea, but at least it is large and diverse enough to withstand the plummeting oil price. The same cannot be said of Enterprise Oil, a pure exploration and production stock. With Enterprise, the oil price goes straight through to the bottom line, and how, as yesterday's plunge in profits and thinly disguised warnings about the final dividend amply demonstrates. For its size, Enterprise has an unmatched record of oil discovery and it is still probably the best exploration play in town.

But if the oil price continues at this level, it won't long remain so. Pierre Jungels, Enterprise's engaging Belgium born chief executive, has long argued that the big virtuously integrated oil majors should be demerged, that their downstream activities are completely different businesses from upstream oil production and exploration. He is of course right about this at a theoretical level. Unfortunately, when the oil price hits this sort of

level, theory goes out the door, and the argument looks a little silly.

Nobody is suggesting Enterprise should be diversifying into oil marketing and refining to get itself out of its present bind. Small time attempts to imitate the oil majors are no solution, as the now deceased showed. But the low oil price may yet force some mergers the medium sized exploration stocks. Who knows? Enterprise and Laming may eventually be driven together after all.

## Accountants

IT IS NOT every day that one feels sympathy for investment bankers. But in complaining to the Office of Fair Trading about the terms under which leading accountancy firms are prepared to carry out the due diligence work associated with mergers and acquisitions, they seem to have a point.

Accountants - quite rightly - put themselves at the centre of the workings of the capital markets. Their work in checking the statements made by companies and their advisers is vital to continuing investor confidence in the mar-

kets. The value of that work is reflected in the fees they charge. So, when things go awry, it is a little rich for them to hold up their hands and say, Hey, I never told you that you could rely on this report.

The profession insists that it is correcting a situation whereby the bankers are looking for insurance by passing the risk of transactions on to somebody else. But the truth is that this is the latest in a series of attempts by accountants - and auditors, in particular - to limit their liability in the past decade - ever since the prospect of US-style lawsuits began to give partners in large firms sleepless nights.

Their defence is that the law - by making them potentially liable for the whole of a loss in a corporate collapse no matter how much they are to blame - is unfairly stacked against them. That law is under review by the Government, with the creation of limited liability partnerships one proposal for reform.

But, in the meantime, accountants should act within existing rules. Accountability demands that those who set themselves up as experts should expect to be sued if things go wrong. If nothing else, it helps concentrate the mind.

And if partners do not like the idea of losing their houses because of something done by somebody on the other side of the world whom they hardly know, that is as good a reason as any not to continue with the huge mergers that have seen the creation of the Big Five.

## British Telecom

AS EXAGGERATED claims go, BT's insistence that most homes will have installed one of its ISDN lines by 2002 takes some beating. Since there is no point in having one of these things unless you own a computer, the forecast requires the present level of PC penetration to nearly double over the next four years. You then have to assume that all these PC users will also be internet subscribers, since again this is the main use for a home based ISDN line.

And finally, you have to assume that none of these new PC owners will want to use the alternative of cable for their connection to the net, and that they are ready to pay roughly four times the cost of an ordinary line rental for the privilege of ISDN. But there's no accounting for marketing hype, is there?

News Analysis: The famous high street name hopes radical changes will halt its market share fall

# C&A ends secret counter-culture

By NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

C&A, ONE of Britain's most secretive retail companies, yesterday announced a radical overhaul of its operations designed to stem the loss of market share and transform the company into a more resilient force on the high street.

The retail giant, run by the wealthy Brenninkmeyer family of Holland since 1841, has developed a reputation for rarely giving interviews, never publishing its financial results and cloaking operations in a veil of family-dominated secrecy.

But yesterday it tentatively embarked on a partial revolution, with plans to shake up its store portfolio, its buying operations and the cautious business culture. It also pledged to be more open about its operations, ending 157 years of secrecy.

C&A is closing six stores, affecting around 160 jobs. It is also making 83 of its UK managers redundant as part of a streamlining operation. Its disparate collection of over 20 clothing labels will be reduced as C&A embraces "brand management".

"These things are always painful," says C&A spokesman Chris Williams. "The redundancies are a particular shock as this company has operated a 'cradle to grave' philosophy. The culture was of a job for life."

The move is part of a series of changes gradually being introduced by C&A. Last year it appointed non-family members to the UK board for the first time in an attempt to gain external expertise. It has centralised its buying operations in Brussels to cut costs and announced plans to spend £200m refurbishing its remaining 114 UK stores. The retailer also plans to broaden its range of prices in an attempt to shed its bargain-basement image.

"This is a major initiative for us," Mr Williams says. "We had started to look old-fashioned and there was a perception of C&A as slightly downmarket. This is all about adopting a more customer friendly approach."

The six stores to close - in Birkhead, Blackburn, Salisbury, Shrewsbury, Southampton and Walsall - will close after January 1999. No buyers have yet been found.

The plans were announced to staff on Wednesday. The redun-



C&A's store in London's Oxford Street yesterday: redundancies and closures have come as a shock to workers accustomed to a 'job for life' ethic

dancies were a shock. "Some managers feel terrible about this," Mr Williams says. "They say: 'Our approach has served us well for so many years, why do we need to change?'"

But industry data reveal that change is urgently needed. Between 1994 and 1997 C&A's sales barely moved, rising by less than 5 per cent from £380m to £388m. In the period it lost a tenth of its share of the UK clothing market, slipping from 4.4 per cent to 3.9 per cent.

Although its high street rival, Littlewoods, has also struggled, Marks & Spencer has increased its stranglehold on the sector, while the supermarketers such as Asda and Tesco have been gaining sales at the lower-priced end of the market.

"You only have to look at the success of retailers such as New Look, Matalan and the supermarketers to see why C&A has been losing market share," says Clive Vaughan of Verdict, the retail consultants.

"It is always difficult for large, family-dominated companies to change. But Littlewoods [run by the Moores family] has been through it and Marks & Spencer and Boots have stripped out layers of management," adds Mr Vaughan. Clark's shoes, the family-controlled footwear retailer and maker, has been through a similar modernisation.

The changes are a radical departure from the usual business philosophy of C&A, whose culture is rooted in the Dutch-Catholic origins of its founders. It was founded in 1841 by the Dutch brothers Clemens and Augustus Brenninkmeyer, whose ancestors were linen and textile traders in the 17th century. Having left their home in Mettingen, Germany, they opened a warehouse in Sneek in Holland that year. The first real shop did not appear until 1861, also in Sneek.

Expansion into Britain followed in 1922. C&A now has more than 550 stores in 11 Eu-

ropean countries. It also has associated businesses around the world, although they do not all trade under the C&A banner.

As the business grew so did the wealth of the Brenninkmeyers, who rank among the world's richest people with an estimated net worth of £4.5bn.

A staunchly Catholic family, they are said to be famously tough on their children. No member is given a job unless they get a thorough grilling at

the annual family board meeting. In the old days the choice was often between the business or the priesthood.

But the cult of secrecy is ingrained. C&A remains an unlimited company, meaning that the family is ultimately liable for the company's entire debts. This also means the business does not have to file accounts.

A Dutch journalist once overheard a family elder remark that "openness is a sign

of weakness". Family members sit on every board in every country where it operates. A market flotation, therefore, is not on the agenda. All investment is funded internally.

The Brenninkmeyers are reported to grade themselves by numbers that denote each individual's place in the hierarchy, which is said to embrace more than 2,000 people. It has been said that senior employees sign an oath of secrecy and communicate with head office through a code word. The code, the name of a street in Holland, is no longer used.

Access to the family is still difficult to gain. Contact is more likely to be made with the two non-family UK board members, Dennis Robinson and Norrie Fairbairn. "They [the family] are very low profile. They do not show their wealth off, but they do a lot of work behind the scenes, for charity and so on," the company says. In the UK, the chairman is

Mark Conrad Brenninkmeyer, who is in his London office most days. Another Brenninkmeyer, Stephen, sits on the UK board.

"In the past people would make things up [about C&A] and we wouldn't do anything to correct them," Mr Williams says. "Now we are trying to be more open." In June the company announced its financial results to its managers for the first time, but there are no plans to make them more widely available.

C&A may be an odd beast but it has a place on British high streets, experts say. The business has a strong following and its value-for-money offers certainly suit the current economic climate.

The group ranks fourth in the UK clothing market behind M&S, Arcadia and Next. Mr Vaughan of Verdict says: "The things they are doing sound very sensible and other family-dominated groups have proved it can be done."

## C&A THROUGH THE YEARS



The Brenninkmeyer brothers, Clemens (left) and Augustus.

1841 C&A is founded by two Dutch brothers, Clemens and Augustus Brenninkmeyer (hence the name C&A), when they set up a warehouse in Sneek, Holland.

1904 C&A opens its first store in the UK, in London's Oxford Street. It claims to be one of the first stores to offer ready-to-wear clothes at affordable prices. By 1910 it has a chain of stores across Holland.

1911 Opens first store in Germany, which will become C&A's largest market.

1922 First C&A opens in Britain, on London's Oxford Street.

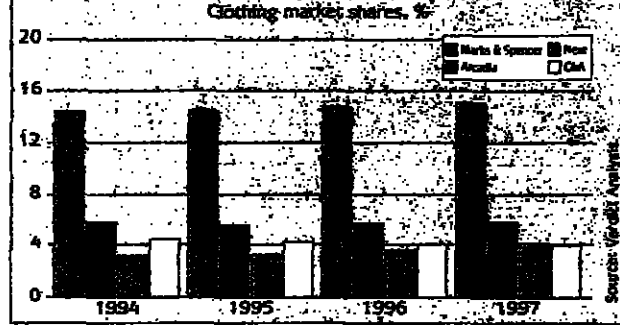
1977 Introduces a collection of skiwear, the first affordable range on the British high street. Remains market leader in ski-clothing today.

1990s Though UK sales exceed £800m, market share begins to drift. Rivals such as Marks & Spencer increase the pressure while supermarket groups start stocking large clothing ranges at low prices.

1998 Announces re-structure, including store closures and management job cuts, to modernise business and make it a more formidable high street force.

Rui Xavier

## C&A STRUGGLES TO HOLD ITS MARKET SHARE



## Peel in £66m Thistle hotels buyout

By NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

ROBERT PEEL, the former chief executive of Thistle Hotels, returned to familiar haunts yesterday with a deal that gives him management control of a third of his old firm's portfolio. Thistle is selling 30 of its provincial hotels to Lehman Brothers, the investment bank, for £66m.

Mr Peel's new company, Peel Hotels, based on the alternative investment market in March, will run the hotels under an "incentivised management arrangement", with the option to buy two of them, in Leeds and Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

The deal follows a decision by Thistle several months ago

to rationalise its portfolio and concentrate on building up its chain of Thistle branded hotels instead. The properties being sold range from the Mercury Hotel in Port William to the Astor in Plymouth. Last year, the 30 hotels recorded profits of £1.7m. Their net book value at the end of December was £33m.

Ian Burke, Thistle's chief executive, said: "The sale of 30 hotels, which do not fit within the company's overall strategic plans, will allow us to focus up on the remaining hotels, pre-

dominantly four stars operating under the Thistle brand."

Mr Peel parted company with Thistle last year, amid suggestions that its major shareholder, Brierley Investments of New Zealand, was unhappy with the company's financial performance.

In June the Leeds-based group revealed it had received unsolicited approaches about a possible takeover bid. Brierley later indicated it expected a sale. Last month Thistle was rumoured to be close to announcing a £1.5bn deal with Nomura International for its four-star hotels. But talks collapsed

when Nomura lowered its offer.

Mr Peel started to build up the company that is now Thistle from quite humble origins two decades ago, based on Mount Charlotte Investments, then little more than a collection of seaside hotels.

Lehman has named its new division Grace Hotels. Wilson Lee, Lehman brothers director of European Mortgage and Asset Backed finance, said: "This... reinforces a strategy of principal investment in the European markets."

Thistle shares closed 0.5p higher at 153p. Peel Hotels jumped 10p to 142.5p.

## BNFL looks at US bonds

BRITISH Nuclear Fuels may tap the United States bond markets to fund the building of American mini-Sellafield reprocessing plants after winning the first stage of a \$6.9bn (£4.2bn) nuclear clean-up contract at Hanford, in Washington state, in the north-west corner of the US, writes Andrew Garfield.

It would be the first time the company will have resorted to private capital for funds. The company has been wholly self-financing so far because of the long-standing industry practice of paying for reprocessing up front.

"We may have to raise finance in this way. It is something we are looking at," the finance director, Ross Chiese, said.

Once the \$1.2bn acquisition of Westinghouse's nuclear business in collaboration with America's Morris Knudsen is completed at the end of the year, some 25 per cent of BNFL's activity will be in the private sector.

However, John Taylor, the chief executive, said there had been no discussion with the government about possible privatisation of the group, a highly controversial step given the widespread public concern

about the safety of the nuclear reprocessing industry.

The firm is a net contributor to the Treasury to the tune of £33m this year, up from £46m. BNFL's cash pile nearly doubled to £4.5bn this year with the takeover of Magnox Electric, the government-owned operator of older nuclear plants. "There is nothing we have wanted to do that we have not been able to do with the Government as our shareholder," Mr Taylor said.

Profits before tax fell from £216m to £199m in the year to 31 March, taking into account Magnox losses. Turnover was up from £1.28bn to £1.34bn.

## Finelist profits

FINELIST, the supplier of vehicle parts, said it was looking for more acquisitions. It reported a 64 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £30.3m for the year to 30 June, on turnover 70 per cent higher at £388.1m. Finelist's market share is expected to grow from 10 to 15 per cent over the next two to three years, said the chairman, Chris Swan. Over 80 per cent of the market is now shared between 6,000 independent operators.

JAVI 150



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		Chg %						
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1. *Introduction*



# Oil sector reels as low crude price hits profits

A CLOUD of gloom descended on the oil sector yesterday as Enterprise Oil, one of its strongest players, revealed a collapse in profits and said the industry was facing "the toughest time in its history".

Shares in Enterprise plunged by 10 per cent yesterday to 332p, nearly half their level in May, as it warned that it was being forced to consider a dividend cut. Net profit, after exceptional gains, fell from £20m to £12m.

In a letter to shareholders, Sir Graham Hearn, the chairman, said: "I write to you at a time when the oil industry is facing arguably the toughest time in its history."

"Oil prices over the past year have fallen to their lowest level for 25 years in real terms. As a result, I have to report a disappointing set of results."

He said the profits were "clearly not acceptable", and added that the oil industry must find its own solution "from within, not without".

The company outlined unprecedented measures to cut costs in every area of its business, from exploration to office space.

Pierre Jungels, the chief executive, said: "We cannot bank on higher oil prices in the foreseeable future, so we are intent on driving Enterprise Oil even harder. A widespread review of our business in a world of low oil prices has identified a number of actions we will be taking in order to create growth, even if crude prices stay below \$15 a barrel for several years."

Actions to be taken by Enterprise will include cutting

BY ANDREW VERITY

exploration for new oil fields, cutting its stake in associated companies, renegotiating costs and even letting out excess office space. In many projects, cost levels were set at a time when oil prices were much higher.

Liz Butler, an oil analyst at Panmure Gordon, said: "The low oil price is killing them and it is killing every oil company. Enterprise is in a better position than most. In real terms, the oil price is probably at its lowest since 1973."

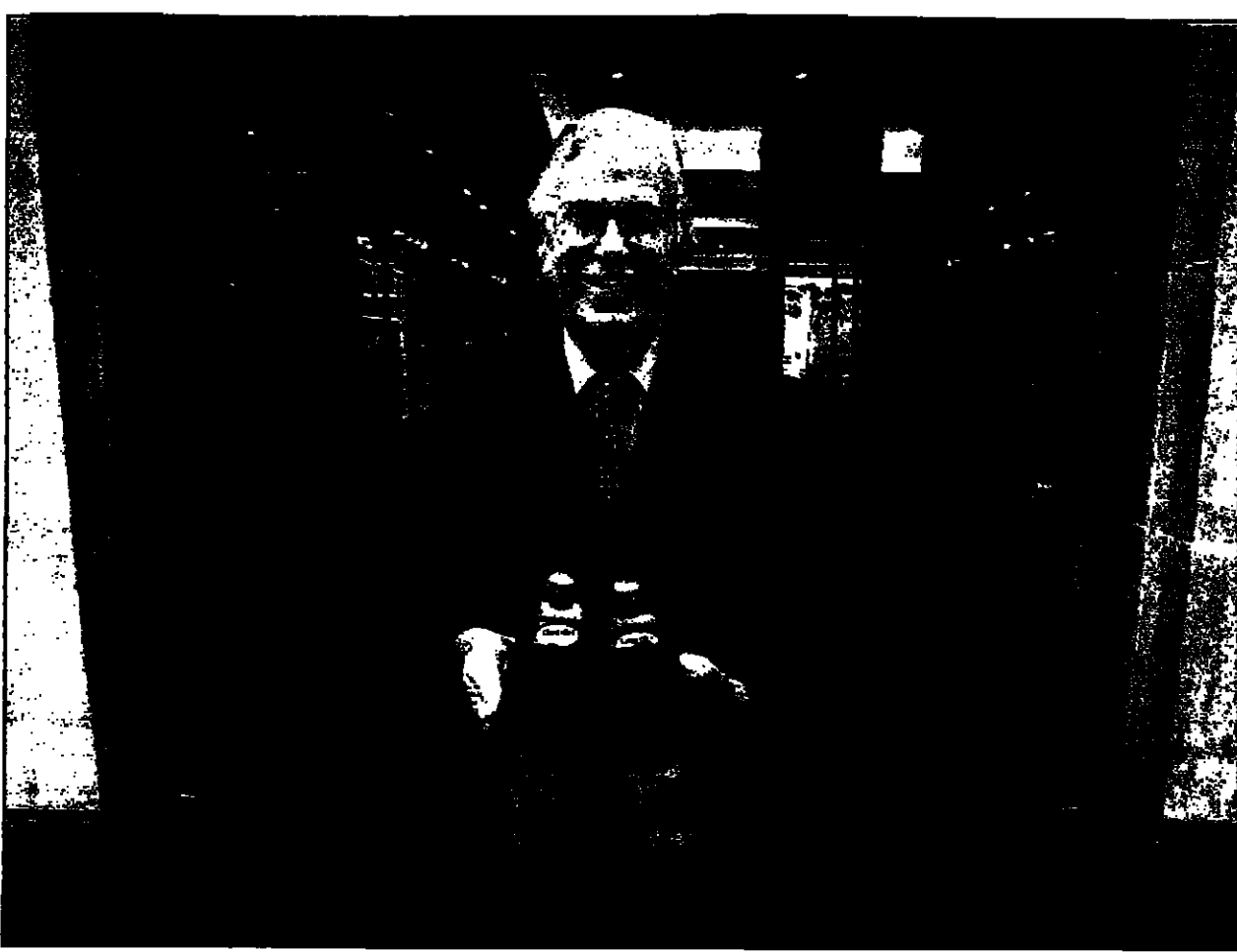
Enterprise realised an oil price of £8.15 (£13.42) a barrel in the first half of 1998, compared with £12.11 (£19.78) last year. Despite cutting its costs from £5.12 to £5.83 per barrel, the impact of this fall has been devastating.

World oil prices have been slashed as Iraq has in effect re-entered the market and the economic slump in Asia has reduced demand. Mild winters in Western Europe and the US and an excess of stock have aggravated the problem.

Mr Jungels said the industry needed a co-ordinated action plan to tackle the cost of getting oil and gas out of the ground, including running wells in common with other companies and bundling assets together.

Internal cost-cutting was essential, including slashing travel, entertainment and communications budgets. But the "real prize" - a cut in costs of 10 per cent - could only be achieved by action across the industry.

Outlook, page 15



John Church in Jermyn Street yesterday. Branches are to open in Manchester and Oxford Peter Macdonald

## Church steps out with 11% profit rise

SHARES in Church & Co yesterday rose 10p to 280p as the shoe and retailer reported a 11-per cent increase in profits before tax to £1.5m for the six months to 30 June.

"July and August were very

buoyant ... and, provided this continues throughout the autumn ... I believe we can be optimistic about the outcome for 1998," John Church, the chairman, said. Jones, the UK retail company, produced a 7 per

cent improvement in profits, the company said.

Last month the group opened a second shop in Covent Garden, London, and openings are scheduled soon for Trafford Park, Manchester,

and Oxford. Profits also rose at the UK manufacturing companies Church & Co (Footwear) and Joseph Cheaney & Sons. The interim dividend has been lifted by 9 per cent, 3.5p to 3.8p.

## Delphi shares slump as IT ambitions are scaled back

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

£1.4m in the first six months of the year.

Mr Reeves said Delphi had underestimated how much investment the subsidiary, which manages clients' computer systems from a remote location, required.

"It hasn't worked because the technology has taken us into a new service which has taken much longer and much more money than expected to develop," Mr Reeves said.

The group is also planning

to sell its 30.8 per cent stake in Decan, the French IT solutions business.

Mr Reeves said Delphi had received three offers for Alpine, and hopes to complete a sale by the end of the year. But he said it was too early to tell whether the company would suffer a loss on the sale. Delphi bought Alpine for \$25m (£15m) in 1996.

Ingrid von Hentschel, IT analyst at Beeson Gregory, said: "In order to become a solutions company, Delphi would have had to put too much money in.

They didn't have the money and they didn't have the management." However, she backed Delphi's decision to pull out. "It's a rational decision at long last."

Mr Reeves said Delphi's priority now was to concentrate on its staffing operations.

He added that the group was looking to strengthen the management of its staffing business by recruiting a new chief executive for its American division, which had also suffered from the difficulties at Alpine.

## Wembley takes £7.9m leap into the black

MICHAEL FLATLEY'S musical *Lord of the Dance* helped lift Wembley plc into the black again in the first half of the year as the leisure group prepared to sell the national stadium for £103m.

Wembley boosted profits from its Arena after a poor 1997 by extending the number of "event days" from 58 to 75 from January to July. No less than 21 of these featured Flatley's high-kicking Irish dance musical.

*Lord of the Dance* helped boost profits at the Arena and the Stadium by 17.6 per cent to £7.9m, while profits in some other parts of the business stood still. The impact of hospitality packages on World Cup ticket sales saw earnings at Keith Prowse, its ticket agency division, fall from £0.8m to £0.3m.

Wembley is in the midst of a giant restructuring package which includes the sale of Wembley Stadium to the English National Stadium Trust, a body set up especially to redevelop the Stadium.

Wembley is concentrating more on its greyhound tracks and gaming business. A video-based lottery gaming machine has proved popular at its track venues in Rhode Island, in the United States, where profits rose 10.7 per cent.

Claes Hultman, chairman of Wembley, said: "The proposed sale of Wembley provides a tremendous opportunity to develop and refocus the Wembley group. The conclusion of the sale will finally allow us to exploit fully the remaining untapped potential within the business."

Wembley has gone ahead with big changes in management after a difficult year in 1997. Alan Coppin, group chief executive, will leave the group by the end of September, to be replaced by Nigel Potter, group finance director and the deputy chief executive since May.

Wembley slipped into loss in 1997, largely because of the

BY ANDREW VERITY



Michael Flatley: 'Lord of the Dance' helped profits

impact of a £15.5m award made against a United States subsidiary. The group is still locked in negotiations to try to reduce the loss.

Despite the rise in profits against last year, earnings per share in the first half actually decreased by 10 per cent. Tax payments, heavily offset in 1997 by bringing forward earlier losses in the US, rose sharply. The shares rose 6.5p to 325p.

The group said the World Cup had hit the UK hospitality industry hard. Together with the recession in Asia, it severely reduced the sale of hospitality packages at Lord's, St Andrews and Wimbledon, where Keith Prowse does a large part of its business. Corporations were able to travel to France easily rather than taking their guests to annual events in the UK.

## Blow to WorldCom as McLeod quits

ROB McLEOD, managing director of the UK division of WorldCom, has resigned, dealing a serious blow to the US telecom giant's ambitions of challenging British Telecom in its home market.

Mr McLeod handed in his resignation last month and is planning to leave the group by the end of the year.

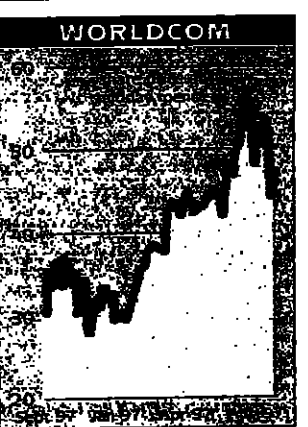
Although he does not yet have another job lined up, he is considering a number of different "exciting" opportunities.

These are thought to include an offer from Colin Williams, a former BT executive and mentor of Mr McLeod's, who works for Level 3 Communications, an aggressive US group.

Level 3 has raised billions of dollars to build a world-wide telecom network based on packet-switching technology, which allows telephone calls to be parcelled up and transmitted over a network at high speed.

Mr McLeod's exit is the most prominent in a recent

BY PETER THAL LARSEN



number of departures of UK staff from WorldCom.

WorldCom has grown at a break-neck pace, most recently through last year's merger with MCI, the US long-distance telecom group, which is due to receive final clearance in the next few weeks. Mr McLeod said his departure was amicable. "I've had the best three years of my career. I had a num-

ber of goals I wanted to achieve and I've done that." He dismissed as "complete and utter nonsense" suggestions that he had fallen out with Liam Strong, the former Sears chief executive who runs WorldCom's European operations.

Mr McLeod originally joined MFS, the telecom group which specialised in providing telecom connections to business users in London and other European cities, in 1995 after spending 12 years with BT.

After MFS was swallowed by WorldCom, he was put in charge of the UK division, which he expanded by establishing connections to the US and continental Europe while building up its UK customer base.

WorldCom recently announced the completion of its European network, which links the Continent's business centres. It is now planning to expand its network in the UK by buying spare capacity from other operators such as Racal Telecom.

## Billiton pulls out of bid for CVG

THE International mining group, Billiton, yesterday blamed the recent turmoil in financial markets for its decision not to bid for Venezuela's aluminium complex, CVG.

"The state of the world economy and global financial markets had presented the consortium with unanticipated challenges and made it increasingly difficult to bring the consortium's preparations to bid to a successful conclusion," the company said.

The British-based firm led the sole consortium qualified to bid for 70 per cent of the CVG aluminium assets which the Venezuelan government is trying to privatise for the third time next week, at a base price of \$1.55bn (\$930m).

The group, which also includes Kaiser Aluminium and Venezuela's Sural, was also the only bidder in July's sale at a time of the loss-making complex, which produces 4 per cent of the world's aluminium. But the consortium withdrew at the last minute over differences in the make-up of the consortium. The first attempt to privatise CVG failed in March when prospective bidders withdrew.

Industry sources said the financial turmoil in global markets probably made it difficult for some consortium partners to obtain adequate funding.

The economic crises in Russia and Asia also raised concerns about investment in emerging markets generally, while specific concerns have increased over the political and economic position in Venezuela, sources said.

The cancellation of the auction is a fresh blow to Venezuela's image, as foreign investors had been looking to the long-delayed privatisation for reassurance that economic reforms were on track. Billiton shares yesterday fell 1p to 113p.

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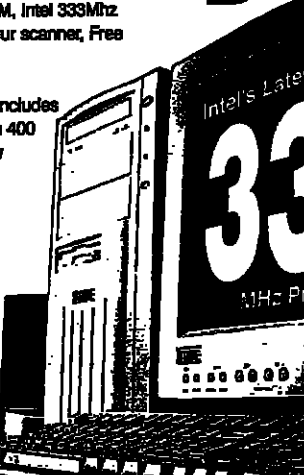
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## SPORT

# Anderton willing and able to repay Hoddle's faith

AFTER ALL, Darren Anderton has been through it may seem a little cruel, but it still comes as a surprise to find him playing for Spurs and in the England squad, not out injured after his exertions in the World Cup. So far, since his third hernia operation in February, it is looking good for all concerned and earlier this week at Burnham the 26-year-old midfielder was enjoying a welcome change from explaining his latest injury or defending Glenn Hoddle's decision to pick him at all.

"It's a little strange seeing everyone from the World Cup again," he said. "That all finished so suddenly, but now we're back here it just seems like yesterday. Not a lot's been said about it, it's more just looking forward to Saturday's game against Sweden."

For Anderton and club-mate Sol Campbell linking up with England is probably just the escape they were looking for given all the fuss over Tottenham's poor start to the season, notwithstanding last Saturday's win at Everton. "It's nice to be here with

England's midfielder is ready to enjoy the challenge of a full and injury-free season for club and country. By Adam Szreter

everyone being so positive towards the game and looking forward to it," Anderton admitted. "Before last week's game against Everton there were a lot of people saying that things weren't going well within the club. But one win changes all that really."

"Whenever we have a couple of bad results it's blown up because we haven't been successful over the past four or five years and after last season, to come back and lose the first two was not what people were looking for. It wasn't even so much the scoreline as the way we played. It was shocking really. But we changed a couple of things on Saturday, we had four in midfield, we knew we had to battle for a win and that's what we did."

It was pointed out that even he looked as though he was getting stuck in at times, not a side of his game Anderton is generally noted

for. "I've always tried, I'm just not particularly good at it," he said. As far as criticism of the team and its manager, Christian Gross, is concerned, Anderton said: "It seems at the moment that all the players are behind him, but of course results are what count. When you start losing games everyone wants to blame each other."

"The fans went crazy at the first home game of the season. We could sense we needed a good performance, but as soon as the first goal went in they turned on us. We know their frustration but in the position we're in now it doesn't help. They need to get behind us, especially at home."

Anderton's own relationship with the Tottenham fans has been stretched to the limit by the injury problems that have restricted his appearances at club level over the past three years, despite playing in

both Euro 96 and the World Cup. "I don't think I've got anything to prove to the fans," he said. "I just want to do well for myself and right now is the best I've felt for three or four years."

"I think I owe Tottenham a bit, but at the end of the day I was under their care and maybe if things had been done differently at times I wouldn't have been out injured for so long."

"But that's all in the past now and yes, I want to do it for Tottenham but I want to do it for myself as well. I showed my loyalty to Spurs by turning down a move to Manchester United at a time when things were going very well for me."

Looking back on the World Cup, the doubts about his fitness and the criticism over his selection ahead of David Beckham at the start of the tournament, Anderton said: "It would have been nice if people had

said it's good to see him back playing again after the injuries he's had. I guess it was a bit of a gamble but Glenn [Hoddle] showed faith in me and the medical staff said there would be no problem with my injury as long as I continued to do the exercises. From then on it was just a matter of getting my match-fitness, and I've always been naturally fit in that way."

"I had a few doubts after the first game against Tunisia when we won 2-0. I thought I did okay but I got slaughtered in the press and after that I thought, 'Well, I'm just going to go out and enjoy it'. Scoring against Colombia after all I'd been through, with the injuries and the stick, made it very satisfying."

"I wasn't too surprised it went well though because I was playing with great players. In that wide position you're relying a lot on your teammates to give you the ball, but with England you're always going to get involved."

With Beckham and David Batty missing from tomorrow's England line-up, Anderton might find himself



Darren Anderton takes a break during training with England at Bisham Abbey ahead of tomorrow's game in Sweden. PA

as involved as he was against Argentina when he took over Beckham's central midfield role following the sending-off. "I enjoyed that," he said. "It was a huge challenge, backs against the wall, but everyone just worked very, very hard. I was absolutely shattered when I came off - it wasn't just the physical side, it was the mental side as well."

As for the future, Anderton

speaks optimistically without taking anything for granted. "I hope my peak years are still ahead of me," he said. "I've lost three years, apart from playing in the European Championship and the World Cup. "I'm lucky with all the injuries I've had to have played in those tournaments, but now I just want to get a good full season under my belt and take things from there."

## Rising sons of Tartan Army

Three of Scotland's bright young talents are preparing to don the national shirts also worn by their famous fathers. By Alan Nixon

IT WOULD be no surprise if the anthem struck up in the Vings Stadium today for Scotland's Under-21 international with Lithuania was that dodgy '70s refrain, "Son of my Father". Because the old Chicory Tip number certainly applies to the latest crop of recruits for the Tartan Army's feeder team as much as "Scotland the Brave".

By a quirk of genes and fortune, Paul Dalglish, Gavin Strachan and Jamie Buchan will follow the footsteps of their famous dads at the same time on the international stage. A generation game with a difference.

The emergence of Dalglish junior as the latest cub to sport the lion rampant on his chest has had supporters and experts alike turning misty-eyed with memories of the halcyon days of their fathers.

It is a comparison that Dalglish in particular has had to suffer, but like young Strachan and Buchan he has inherited more than just the family name. The skills of the Newcastle United striker, like the Coventry midfielder Strachan and Aberdeen's Buchan, have come through.

Dalglish has been protected by his father, Kenny, from the glare of publicity, but his belief that his son would come good has been proved correct at a time when dad's own fortunes are at a low.

Kenny gave Paul his first outing in football when he was 16, Dalglish junior coming on as a substitute in Blackburn Rovers reserves' final game of the season at Wigan. Although the thin youngster trained with the team, mixing with senior players such as Alan Shearer, Dalglish felt it better that his son continued his football education away from possible accusations of nepotism.

Paul joined Newcastle United courtesy of Dalglish's friendship with Terry McDermott, and was even put up in a hotel under his mother's maiden name in an attempt to

stop the news leaking out. Dalglish then used his connections at Celtic to persuade them to give his son a chance. It was a regular occurrence for father to travel hundreds of miles to see his lad in action.

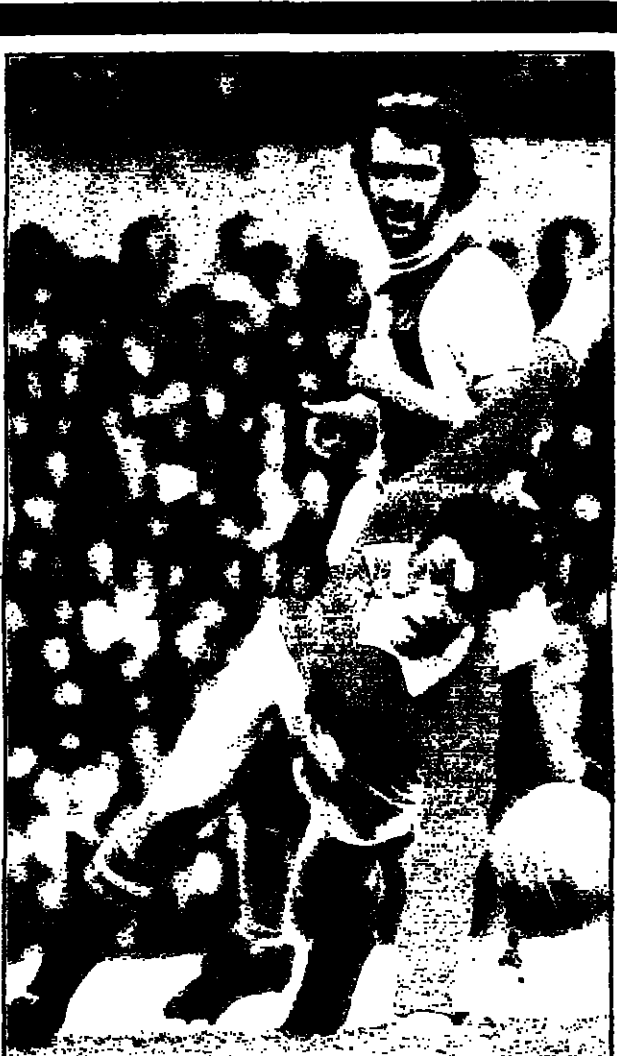
Some doubted Dalglish's ability to live up to his father's name, but shrewd judges felt it was only a matter of time before he came good. He has superior pace, but does not have the chunky backside that his father used to turn bemused markers. Like his father, he sees openings and has the touch and vision to link with team-mates.

Dalglish showed some promise in the reserves before being released. Again his father made the key call and his boy went to Liverpool, where he grew in strength and found the physique to go with his football brain.

A chip off the old block in looks too, Dalglish Junior then joined Newcastle last season, but was immediately loaned to Bury, where he made a handful of first-team appearances. He mixed easily with their journeymen and his pleasing personality made him popular. Now he has developed enough to sit on the Newcastle bench - bizarrely, for the game after Kenny's departure.

His son's first international call-up to the Scotland Under-21 team cheered Dalglish - capped 102 times by Scotland - greatly on the day of his abrupt departure from St James' Park. While Dalglish Junior has the burden of being instantly likened to one so famous, Gavin Strachan has the advantage of being facially and physically dissimilar to his dad, Gordon. Even in their daily proximity at Coventry, it would surprise an outsider to know they are related.

Strachan Junior shares the competitive edge of his father, but is taller and leaner. He has already strode the Premier League stage and Gary McAllister, the Scotland and Coventry midfielder, is impressed: "Gavin has looked at



Three legends of Scotland's international past (from left): Kenny Dalglish, Gordon Strachan and Martin Buchan. Varley-Wilkinson/Allsport/Mirror



And the new guard (from left): Newcastle United's Paul Dalglish, Coventry City's Gavin Strachan and Jamie Buchan, of Aberdeen. Empics/Empics/Evening Express

ease from a young age," he said. "It's obvious that he has been taken to games by his dad and watched carefully. He has a knowledge way beyond his years."

"The boss's other son, Craig, is also with us now, and they are both men in their own right.

They certainly don't abuse the fact that their dad is manager. It goes without saying that they get no special favours, in fact possibly the opposite."

Jamie Buchan is the most established of the new generation. Like his father, Martin, who was captain of Aberdeen, Man-

chester United and Scotland, he has been able to handle the top level at a tender age.

Young Buchan has been at Aberdeen since he left school, a first-team squad man soon after and now an Under-21 regular. These days his father is a football promotions manager for

Puma, based in England and travelling around the world. Buchan Senior considers his son has attributes he lacked and said: "Jamie can do things with a ball that I never could. He is also more laid back than me. I was very intense as a youngster, maybe too serious about life as

well as football. In that way Jamie is unlike me, as he is a freer spirit and expresses himself on the pitch."

It is 19 years since Buchan won the last of his 34 caps for Scotland - he went to the 1978 World Cup with Dalglish, during an era when the bloodline

was obviously at its strongest among Scottish footballers. Archie Gemmill's son, Scot, is a full international; Bruce Riech's son, Gregor, is now with Hull City; while Lou Macari's lads, Paul and Mike, and Frank Gray's son, Andy, have also made the grade at

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# Blackburn ready to sell Sherwood

## FOOTBALL

BY ALAN NIXON

BLACKBURN ROVERS are ready to sell their captain, Tim Sherwood, to Tottenham for £5m. Rovers have rejected Tottenham's opening two offers, but are expecting an improved package today for their midfielder. Sherwood is prepared to talk to Spurs if the fee is agreed and

it seems certain that he would go to London, where he has a house. Blackburn will not stand in his way should the offer match their valuation even though they were counting on his services in Europe.

The Scottish international Billy McKinlay is available to fit into that role, although he has an Achilles tendon injury at the moment to complicate the timing of the deal. The sides will

meet next week at White Hart Lane and a transfer may be tied up before the game.

Sherwood's pending departure is the latest bad news for Blackburn. Colin Hendry left for Rangers before his testimonial year, Kevin Gallacher and Martin Dahlin are unsettled, and the futures of Stéphane Henchoz and goalkeeper Tim Flowers are in doubt. To make a bad situation worse, Rovers' promising

teenage winger, Jim Corbett, is unlikely to play again until the New Year after breaking his leg during a reserve team game against Nottingham Forest this week.

Manchester City's new signing, Danny Allsopp, is willing to reject his home country of Australia and try to play for England. Allsopp, 19, has been a big impact at Maine Road since arriving from Port Melbourne Sharks

and now he has his sights on English international honours, and will not play for Australia.

The Portsmouth manager, Alan Ball, is hoping to complete the signing of Walsall's French midfielder, Jeff Peron, for £150,000 within the next few days. Ball has agreed a fee and the Frenchman will sign a two-year contract at the First Division club subject to his passing a medical.

The former Scotland winger, Pat Nevin, yesterday took up a new executive role at Motherwell. Nevin, a long-time friend of new Motherwell owner, John Boyle, was expected to become the first player to also hold a seat in the boardroom.

Crystal Palace have received work permits for their two Chinese internationals, Fan Zhiyi and Sun Jihai. Both should be available for selection for

Palace's next match against Crewe on Tuesday.

Peter Shreeves yesterday revealed he is looking for a new challenge in London after leaving Sheffield Wednesday.

Shreeves, who was the first-team coach at Hillsborough, parted company with the Yorkshire club on Wednesday. The Owls are expected to announce shortly that he will be replaced by Birmingham's Frank Barlow.

Shreeves said: "I have had two super years at Sheffield Wednesday and I really took to the Yorkshire people. I think I did well for the club and the club did well for me. That door is closed now and I am back in London, looking for the next challenge."

The former Tottenham manager added that he did not have a job lined up at this stage.

## Dodds dashes to make plane

BY PHIL SHAW  
in Vilnius

AT LEAST no one can accuse Billy Dodds of not being quick enough for international football. The Aberdeen striker made a 100mph dash from the granite city to Glasgow airport yesterday, arriving in time to join the Scotland squad's trip to the Lithuanian capital for tomorrow's opening qualifier for Euro 2000.

Dodds, whose Scotland career amounts to four caps and three seconds, was already two hours into training with his club when he was summoned by Craig Brown to replace the injured Scot Gemmill. A two-hour delay before take-off meant he need not have rushed, but then the 29-year-old from Ayrshire is accustomed to false starts where the Scots and the Baltic republics are concerned.

His last touch in his country's colours was to kick off the infamous "game that never was" in Estonia, two years ago next month. That match was instantly abandoned due to the small matter of the hosts failing to turn up, and Dodds drove South yesterday knowing that he might not even be asked to get changed on this occasion.

Whether he is actively involved or not is likely to hinge on the fitness of Ally McCoist. The talismanic attacker, 36 this month, warned Brown after training on Wednesday that he felt a slight recurrence of the calf condition which has troubled him since his heyday with Rangers. By the morning he believed he could play, only for Brown to stress that the player's wishes were not the sole consideration.

"We've got to look closely at McCoist in training," the Scotland manager said. "He's still a doubt. It would be totally unfair to Kilmarnock if we played him when he wasn't 100 per cent fit and the problem was aggravated. They've made a big investment in him."

The way Scotland ask their front-runners to operate—as the first line of defence, harrying opponents to stop them from building from the back—may count against McCoist. "If he plays, he's got to do the shift," Brown said.

In theory, Gemmill's indisposition with a thigh strain should have been the cue for Brown to call up another midfielder. Despite the Nottingham Forest player joining a list of absentees which already in-

cluded Gary McAllister, Craig Burley, David Hopkin and Billy McKinlay, he considered that the more pressing need was for a striker.

Gemmill, who did not kick a ball in earnest in either Euro 96 or France 98, might well have occupied the anchor role in a central trio alongside John Collins and Paul Lambert. Now the position is earmarked for Colin Calderwood.

Brown previously hinted that Barry Ferguson, the 20-year-old playmaking prodigy from Rangers, would win his first cap. If he does, it will probably be as a substitute. The manager expressed the view that "a tough away fixture like this is one for experienced players, guys who've been over the course."

Lest anyone was tempted to suggest that he was guilty of talking up modest opposition, Brown revealed that he had shown his players a film of Lithuania sharing a goalless draw with the Republic of Ireland in Dublin during the last World Cup qualifying series. "After 20 minutes, the Irish hadn't been up the park once, whereas they had two chances," he said. "It was a warning to us."

## Could dispels talk of rift with Speed

BY GUY HODGSON

GARY SPEED will captain Wales in their European Championship qualifier at Anfield tomorrow night, dispelling reports that an unbridgeable rift had opened between him and Bobby Gould.

The Welsh manager confirmed that "words were expressed" after Wales lost 4-0 to Tunisia immediately before the World Cup finals but could not have been more emphatic in denying it had harmed their relationship. "Gary is a forthright young man with opinions," Gould said. "Which at times he feels he wants to put forward for the benefit of the team. I remember a dark haired centre-forward who was just the same. I voiced my opinions, too."

"You knock things backwards and forwards, of course you do. If you've got opinions you should voice them as long as you do it at the right times and through the right channels. Words were expressed but it's

a dead subject as far as I and the Welsh FA are concerned."

If Speed had an axe to grind yesterday it was over a venue made necessary because the National Stadium in Cardiff is being rebuilt. He would have preferred a Welsh ground such as Colwyn Bay or Merthyr Tydfil but economics ruled that out.

"I think it makes our task more difficult," he said. "Most of our players have played there before but I think it will suit the Italians more than us and they will get better support from Italian nationals based in this country. They are a very strong team but we've got battling qualities and if we get in among them we could cause an upset."

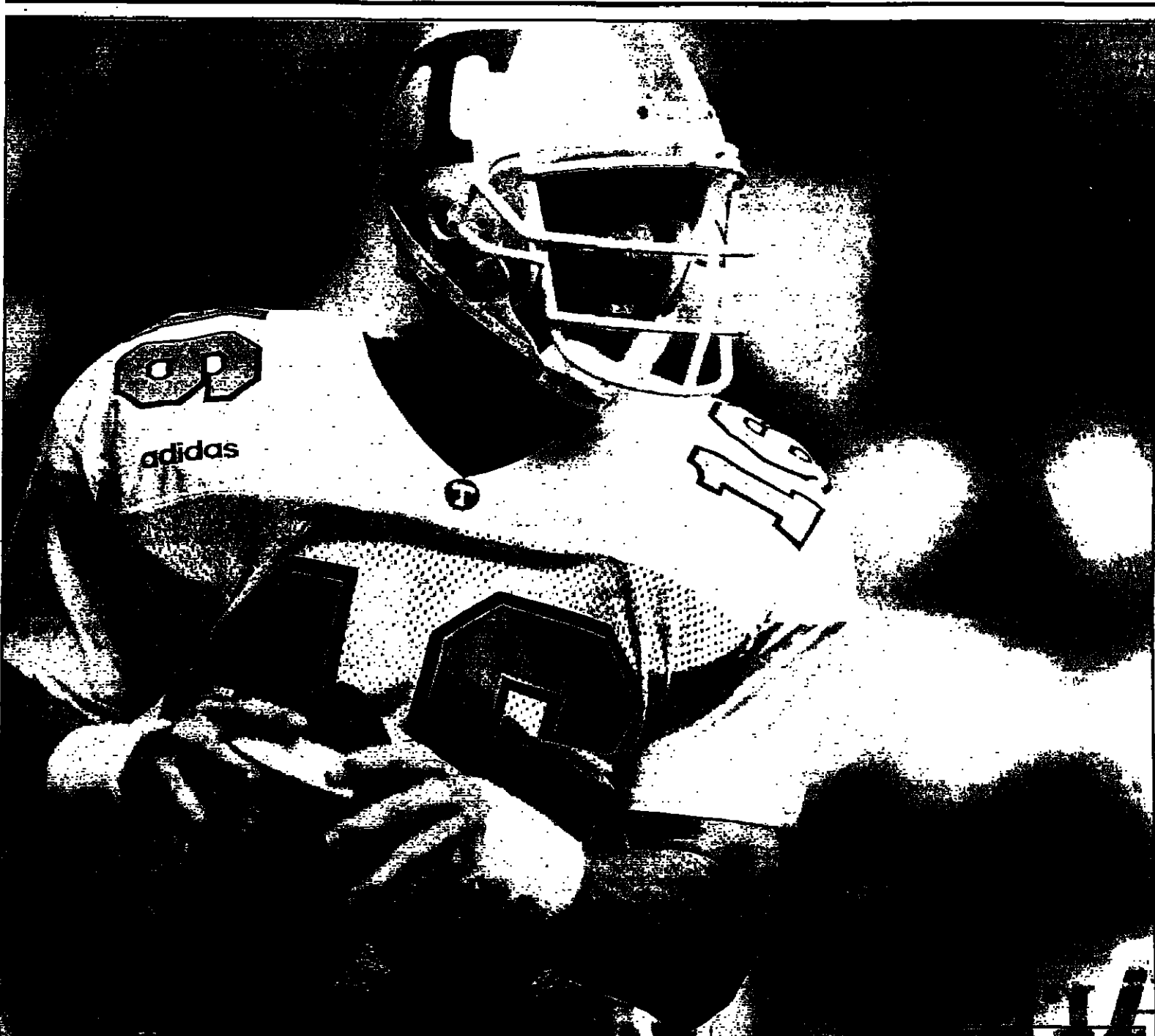
Mick McCarthy, the Republic of Ireland manager, warned yesterday a weakened Croatia will still set his team a major test of their qualification ambitions at Lansdowne Road tomorrow.

Croatia, who finished third in France, their first World Cup campaign, flew into Dublin minus five big names. Davor

Suker, the top-scorer at France '98, Robert Prosinecki, Slaven Bilic of Everton and Goran Vlaovic are missing, along with the Lazio striker Zoran Boksic, whose knee injury, which prevented him going to the finals, is still a problem.

However, McCarthy insisted: "Croatia still have a lot of other excellent players—Boban, Jarni and Stanic to name just three." McCarthy is missing only the striker Niall Quinn and the suspended David Connolly from his squad and could recall Tony Casciaro. That would mean an "old and new" pairing up front with Casciaro, who was 38 earlier this week, partnering the 18-year-old Wolves forward Robbie Keane.

Keith Gillespie is ready to make his comeback and prove to the Newcastle manager, Rued Gullit, that he deserves a new contract. Gillespie is set to play for Northern Ireland against Turkey in tomorrow's qualifier in Istanbul after five months out with ankle trouble.



A new breed of quarterbacks: The Indianapolis Colts' Peyton Manning and (inset) Ryan Leaf, of the San Diego Chargers. "If I don't win, the money means nothing," Manning said of his £30m, six-year contract. Allsport

## Time up for old guard as gridiron enters new era

AMERICAN FOOTBALL  
BY NICK HALLING

EARLIER THIS year, the National Football League concluded what is thought to be the biggest television deal in the history of sport, an eight-year contract worth slightly over \$1.6bn (£950m). The gridiron game may have its problems on the international front, as evidenced by the closure in June of the England Monarchs, but at home, American football remains a national obsession.

A new season opens for business on Sunday night, and just as the massive influx of television money is certain to have far-reaching consequences off the field, an excitingly different era is dawning on it. An elite group of quarterbacks, who have dominated affairs for more than a decade, are slowly but surely in decline; on the sidelines a fresh young, brash group of passers stand ready to consign them to history.

The quarterback is the single most important player on a team's 45-man roster. With 30 franchises in the league, talent is spread thinly; the few passers of proven quality are protected jealously by their teams, while the rest hope the annual collegiate draft throws up a few gems. This year, the draft delivered two genuine prospects: Peyton Manning, from

the University of Tennessee, was selected by the Indianapolis Colts, while Ryan Leaf gave up his studies at Washington State early for the chance to join the San Diego Chargers.

They are considered the brightest young stars since Dan Marino and John Elway arrived in 1983. Marino and Elway have enjoyed illustrious careers and are still playing. Elway, having led the Denver Broncos to victory in the Super Bowl last year, while Marino, with Miami Dolphins, remains the only player in league history to pass for more than 50,000 yards. Both are multi-millionaires, but even their jaws will have dropped at the amount of cash thrown at their young rivals.

As the first beneficiaries of the new TV money, Manning signed a six-year deal worth \$48.5m (£30m), while Leaf had to settle for just \$31.25m (£19.5m) over five years. "People are asking me what I plan to do with the

money," Manning said. "The truth is, I plan to earn it. If I don't do the job, which is to win, the money means nothing."

The two youngsters, both daunting physical specimens at 6ft 5in and over 18st, are blessed with the confidence of youth. Leaf is already talking in terms of winning a Super Bowl in two or three years, while Manning predicts good times ahead for a Colts franchise mired in decades of mediocrity. Most rookie quarterbacks are gently eased into the front line over a two or three-year period, but Leaf will be at the helm when the Chargers begin their season against Buffalo, while Manning has the chance to observe Marino when the Colts entertain the Dolphins.

"There's no question that Ryan is ready," Leaf's college coach, Mike Price, said. "Not only is he strong and fast, but he has the right mental attitude."

Jim Mora, the Colts' coach, speaks similarly of Manning:

"Peyton will be a great player in this league," he said. "He will progress faster than most rookie quarterbacks because he has such special talents."

Sobering stuff for the old guard, aware that in the ruthless business of American sports, past achievements count for nothing. Marino, who will be 37 in less than a fortnight, has already learned that owning every passing record worth having has not stopped malicious tongues wagging. Last season, the unthinkable happened when it was suggested in many media quarters that the Dolphins might be better served by a change of quarterback. If they struggle this season, their pragmatic head coach, Jimmy Johnson, might yield to temptation.

Flushed with Super Bowl elation, Elway considered retirement before deciding to give it one more year. Considered the most technically accomplished quarterback

ever, the Denver passer's talents are clearly eroding. The daring, mazy runs that were once his trademark are rarely seen these days, while an arm which once propelled the football with finger-burning velocity has lost some of its snap.

Then there is Seattle's venerable Warren Moon, 42 in October, desperately trying to hold off the challenge of the young Jon Kitna, who showed huge potential playing for the Barcelona Dragons in the World League in 1997. When the NFL season ends in January, it is possible that all three will have taken their final snap.

Bizarrely, the Atlanta Falcons have brought Steve DeBerg out of retirement to back up Chris Chandler, their frequently injured passer. The 44-year-old DeBerg hasn't played since 1993, and has spent the last four seasons coaching. "I see it as a great opportunity," he said. "I plan on enjoying it." Unfortunately for yesterday's men, age rarely finds accommodation on the gridiron. An exciting future beckons, and for Ryan Leaf and Peyton Manning, the young guns of the NFL, that future is now.

## Diamond geezers of Rushden on the rise

### NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

THE BOOKMAKERS decided that Rushden & Diamonds were the pre-season favourites to claim the Football Conference title—and the Northamptonshire club are doing their best to prove them right.

The Nene Park outfit have won all six of their opening fixtures, scoring 20 goals in the process, and they have accumulated a four-point lead at the top of the table. It is the best start to a Conference campaign by any club this decade.

Despite starting only four of the six games together, Diamonds' new front-line partnership of Adrian Foster (seven goals) and Darren Collins (six) have already found the net 13 times between them. Their defensive team-mates have been equally effective, conceding just two goals so far.

Brian Talbot, the former

Ipswich, Arsenal and England midfielder stalwart who is now Rushden's head coach, said yesterday: "It's a fantastic start. We couldn't have done any better—but there's a long way to go and we have to keep working hard. We won't win every game."

Diamonds are reaping the benefit of a full-time professional playing staff, a rarity below the Nationwide League. The Conference squad of 27 senior players is backed up by the 16 apprentices that are the pick of the club's youth programme, making a total staff of 43 training at Nene Park every day.

The funding for this ambitious set-up comes from the club's chairman Max Griggs, whose business interests include the Dr Martens footwear company. "It's Mr Griggs' club," Talbot, who is thriving after an unhappy managerial experience at West Bromwich and

Aldershot, said. "He's made it, he's built it, he funds it."

Griggs has given Rushden what is probably the best stadium outside the League and is now trying to make sure that Talbot's playing staff is of comparable quality. The emphasis is on experience, with last season's regulars like Chris Whyte, the former Arsenal and Leeds centre-half, and Colin West, once of Sunderland and Rangers, being joined this summer by new recruits like Paul Wilson, the ex-Cambridge United and Northampton left-back, the former Crewe goalkeeper Mark Gayle and the ex-Bristol Rovers winger Lee Archer.

The former Queen's Park Rangers and England forward Rodney Marsh is lined up to become the managing director of the Dr Martens League club, Ashford Town. Marsh apparently wants to make the Kent side "the Macclesfield Town of the south".

## McGwire barrage edges towards record

### BASEBALL

MARK MCGWIRE slugged his way to the brink of immortality on Wednesday night, striking two home runs to move within two of Roger Maris' 37-year-old Major League record.

The St Louis Cardinals' first baseman hit a pair for the second consecutive night during a

14-4 rout of the Florida Marlins in Miami. The barrage kept "Big Mac" on course to beat the record of 61 set by Maris of the 1961 New York Yankees, who outslugged his team-mate Mickey Mantle when both chased Babe Ruth's mark of 60 set in 1927.

"It will probably sink in on the flight home," McGwire

said. "I was more surprised when the first one went out. It was three feet off the ground and that is why I put my fist in the air—I was amazed that I got it."

McGwire's two blasts came after Sammy Sosa, the Chicago Cubs outfielder, hit his 56th homer of the season in a 4-2 win against Cincinnati Reds.

Homer No 58 for McGwire came on a 2-1 pitch from the Florida reliever, Brian Edmondson. The ball flew 497ft into the left-field upper deck of the Joe Robbie Stadium—the third-longest hit in the ballpark's six-year history. In the eighth, he made it 59 when he clubbed the first pitch from Rob Stanley 458ft to left-centre.

The previous day, McGwire hit two homers against Florida to break the National League record of 56 set in 1930 by Hack Wilson, of the Chicago Cubs.

The Cardinals have 23 games remaining in the regular season and McGwire is on pace to hit a record-breaking 68 homers.



**BY RICHARD EDMONDSON**

Now, though, may not last very much longer. Such has been Littmoden's progression (he is up to 29 winners for this season) that it is believed he will

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
Nap: Faraway Lass  
(Haydock 3.00)  
NB: Rainbow Rain  
(Epsom 4.50)

"He should have won that," Littmoden said yesterday. "We were the unlucky horse in the race. Kieren Fallon said he would have won if he'd been able to get himself out of the pocket he was in."

Longchamp at the beginning of next month will be High-Rise's first run since he surrendered his unbeaten record to Swain in the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot. The evidence

seems to be that he has benefited from the break. "He's certainly done well since Ascot and I just hope I've done the right thing in giving him time," Cumani said. "He's getting bigger and stronger all the time."

**"There's certainly plenty to look forward to with him and it's great news that the owner [Sheikh Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum] has decided to keep him in training next season."**

weekend's big event at Longchamp, the Prix du Moulin was reduced to two yesterday by the withdrawal of the Cornation Stakes winner Exclusive.

The David Loder-trained Desert Prince (to be ridden by

Olivier Peslier) and Kan Mahdi's Almushtarak (R. Cochrane) remain among the top acceptors for Sunday's Grovetown One one-mile race.

The Japanese filly Seeking The Pearl (Yutaka Take), who

won last month's Prix Maurice de Gheest at Deauville, was also declared along with the Aic O'Brien-trained Second Empire, who will be ridden by John Reid as Michael King is unavailable.

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**HYPERION**

**2.10** **STACIA J LONSDALE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN**  
**THURSDAY (5/5) 5:30pm** **Lot 71 Penalty Value \$3,453**

1	ADAM (10) (aka) Howard W. Jacobs 1-0	K Nelson 9
2	DAUNTED (11) (aka) A. Amoschitz 3/4 M. Yero 9-0	F Norton 8
3	JANE TIGER (10) (P) C T Wilson 5 M. Nelson 0-0	Al Thoburn 5
4	LOTS OF JAGS (10) (P) Peter M. Nelson 0-0	Dawn Orfield 7
5	DEAR PLE (17) (P) G. Stang 0 D. Ewer 0-0	N. Palfrey 10
6	SONS W DANCE MAN (14) (Schmidt-Boehm) J. Hensola 0-0	D. Hoffman 2
7	BOY LADIES (14) (P) G. P. Doherty M. Rinehart 0-0	W. H. Hensola 1
8	THE PLE (15) (P) Peter M. Nelson 0-0	S. Whitfield 1
9	SMILEY MAGICAL (The Chant Ruck) P. M. Nelson 0-0	H. Day 8

9 - 1 declared

**BETTING:** 1-4 Lots of Jags, 7-2 Song W Dance Man, 4-4 Maple, 11-2 Jane Tiger, 8-1 Lady Lenses, 10-1 Ace, 20-1 Deanted, 25-1 9-2

1987: Name Of Lot 5 N Palfrey 9-2 (D. Doherty drawn) 15 N ran

[illegible]

start who takes the lively winner by Kieren Fallon aboard, but his odds are sure to be tight. *Lilli Claire* and *Lilli Indran* just seem to have lost their class, and *Wendie* is the one to fear with the stable in much better form since her latest start in June.

**4.20 IMI AIR CONDITIONING MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D)**  
**\$5,000 added \$30 1m 11yds Penalty Value \$3,355**

1	D JONES BOWDLE MISC 3YO (P) Paul Jones 9	J 9	Holland
4-3286	SIR FREDERICK H MISC 3YO (C) Richard H 9	7	R Hills
3-42-25	SILVERGOLD 1B (S) (The Lady) C Harmon 9	8	Diana O'Neill 10
4	063 KNOXFIELD BLAZE 1B (Isis Pauline S Overy) H Harris 9	8	S Drowne
5	PERLA DI SASSO (G) (Sheikh Mohammed) C Britain 9	9	M Roberts
6	0 TITTY AGAIN 1B (A F Marlet) S Deen 9	9	P Power 9

Bred -

**FORM GUIDE**

**Big Blue:** A four-day winner at this trip and best when coming off fast paces. Higher grade races on latest visit than the other Jack, and subsequent 2nd to Whittaker's Right at Salisbury was in appearance; race Best on first ground.

**Whittaker's Right:** Handicapped on his form with Toby Belding but seemingly on the upswing.

**Rainbow Ruler:** Former Mike Johnston-trained gelding who pinged in from the front on Longfirth AW last week. Same tactics likely and one to consider even with the penalty.

**Longfirth AW:** The best of the bunch here, having won the last two trips and placed on AW. Best Morgan Le Lay at Longfirth in June and stable going great guns.

**Maver:** Good Hooksett Creditable 4th to Korsemaeh on AW last time, but held by Metaculous on previous form at Chesapeake.

**Chesapeake:** The best of the bunch in County at Bath yet another modest effort. Best over a mile and less in the ground, but today's 7th may prove too heavy.

**Judy Gillmore:** Has shown nothing about a promising juvenile run, though badly downgraded by a fall in the ground.

**Metaculous:** Just one win from 20 starts. Creditable 2nd to Lamorna over this trip all

the smart Daunted Lady. L  
npton maiden on debut

[illegible]

<b>3.15</b>	<b>VALLANT RATED HANDICAP (CLASS B) £12,250 added 1 m 21 Penalty Value £7,372</b>				
1	2004S	GENIOUS LIBR (4) (C) (Walc Seld.) J Durrig + 9 Wm	+8	K Fellon	3
2	5102G	SHADOOF LIRA (4) (C) (Mts H Layly) W Glen + 8		Martin Dwyer	1
3	3428	SOTIVUS (B) (Gooden Ramen Sd.) C Gurnard 59		G O'Halloran	4
4	00530	ANOTHER FANTASY (Sp) (Mts P F Laburg R Harmon 59)		Dave O'Flynn	2

BETTING: 10-11 Genious Libra, 3-1 Shadoof, 5-1 Sotivus, 11-4 Another Fantasy  
 1997: Sandorch Charmory 8-8 10 Senders 11-4 tv (E Botherby) drawn (7) 8 ran

### FORM GUIDE

Genious Libra: Hacked up over CD on Monday from Supply And Demand. Difficult to lose off the mark in the same mood but unpredictable and can be slow starter.  
 Shadoof: enjoying excellent season with series of good efforts including CD win over Future Perfect. Something to find with Genous Libra through Supreme Sound.  
 Sotivus: still holding hands well. Two good efforts in reply to be bred and difficult to assess on domestic form. 10 lengths off 3-1 Mulsater at Doncaster (1m). Last time.  
 Another Fantasy: Struggling either ten lengths worse to Cape Verd in 1000 Guineas. Will need to step up on latest 2 lengths length to Gypsy Passion at Goodwood (1m 2f)  
**VERDICT:** Good small field should suit GENIOUS LIBRA, who is in particularly good heart and had a ton in hand here on Monday. This should have kept him in the tightest finish and he will be going close to SHADOOF, who is paying a price with the handicapper for a series of good efforts.

2021TY: 6-4 Silverado, 3-1 John Bowdler Music, 5-1 Perla Di Sasso, 5-1 Stroll, Kingsford Place  
2021TY Age: 1  
1997: Summerize 3 6 6 R Hewin (3) 4-1 P (Chapple-Hyam) down (3) 1 ran

### FORM GUIDE

John Bowdler Music: Son of Show Star who was badly down on his juvenile start (just for 4f) when last-0-11 to Jacmar at Hamilton. Subsequently galloped and stable's Abernethy won at York yesterday on a return from a lengthy absence  
Sheik: Little promise since her seasonal 3rd to Prosperette at Lingfield, including the least 8th to Hoped Well at Windsor  
Summerize: Former Darnell Well-trained gelding and victor for first time when 3rd to Mario Pato at Pontefract on 10/10 to Richard Hemmell. Steady chance in weak recent Kingsford Place: Best run on least start when third-five to Krisa, beaten roughly 4f, at Sandown. Looks the type to do better in handicaps  
Perla Di Sasso: Newcomer filly by Cartson out of the brilliant Peebles. Needs to be only half-distant to take a hand  
Try Again: Mangled filly who finished tumbled off after a slow start on debut in Eglar's race at Lingfield

**VERDICT:** In such a soft race it will be disappointing for connections if Silverado fails. In his second start since arriving from Ireland. But there could be one to turn him over in the shape of **JOHN BOWDLER MUSIC**, a Italy-import and from a stable enjoying a great run.

Pofoaneas but disappearing when favourite and 2nd to Abbaal at Brighton last time.  
 Taywulic: 8th high mark for the 33rd Newmarket win from Master Casser and beaten 10 lengths, but the last day when he was 100% fit.  
 Grand Overload: Led to the trip on AW last time (7m) when in Scotland, but still remains a modest sort since being brought cheaply out of Ben Hanbury's yard.  
 Ale-Extrudite: Has shown very little and now dropped 1-1 after failing to land a gamble (28-1 to 7-1) when given 6 to 1 to Pofoaneas Prince at Bath (7m).  
 Chloee: 2nd in the last day when he was 100% fit. Good questions in April and now 20 lb worse off. Running well of late (best Barabaster at Kempton, 1m) and least 3rd to Eborace at Yarmouth (7) confirmed he will be going. Ground will suit today.  
 Prince Zandao: Maiden after 13 starts, though 81 to 10 sharp last time better off at Fontenot at Lingfield. Maiden Muteabae at Brighton (7) and now 20 lb better off.  
 Chloee: 2nd in the last day when he was 100% fit. Good questions in April and now 20 lb worse off. Running well of late (best Barabaster at Kempton, 1m) and least 3rd to Eborace at Yarmouth (7) confirmed he will be going. Ground will suit today.  
 Muteabade: Both were gained on AW but will be beaten at Wolverhampton last time.  
 Previous 2nd to Forest Robin at Newmarket was in amateurs' race.  
 Live Project: Best form on AW but has a squeak on 2d of 21 to Forest Robin at Wolverhampton. Inaction at Brighton.  
 Priory Gardens: Below form at Chepstow last time in Speedy Casser's race, but has claims on previous wins at Goodwood (8) and Carlisle (7) good to soft.  
 VERDICT: RAINBOW RAIN has looked good on the gallops since joining Simon Danz but often let down the side on course. The win finally arrived on Lingfield's Eboracae last time. The horse has been employed – the gelding being ridden vigorously from the start to make it. He is all well hand-capped and could take the beating again.

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11	000000	G Hind 20	4	000000	STYCHOMORE LOGGE (7) (C) D Nichols 7 8 7	9	000000	Alan Greenes 20
12	000000	G Duff 10	5	000000	TWO OF THE OTHERS (C) D Saffell 4 8 7	10	000000	L Charnock 10
13	000000	C Gifford 6	6	000000	THE BOWLING GREEN (C) B Bowring 6 9 5	11	000000	W Lewis 10
14	000000	G Cullen 7 (3)	7	000000	SUPERCHIEF (1) (P) J Banks 3 8 5	12	000000	S Sanders 3 5
15	000000	G Parish 10	8	000000	TALMINE (4) (C) W White 4 9 5	13	000000	K Barber 7
16	000000	A McCarry (P) 9	9	000000	PEPPER DANESBURG (C) (C) D Charnock 4 9 4	14	000000	A Kulanen 22
17	000000	A Dale Gibson 10	10	000000	STONEMAN (C) M Smith 3 8 8	15	000000	R Lupton 10
18	000000	P Pacey 10	11	000000	INFERNAL HOLY (C) Mrs A Swinwick 3 8 8	16	000000	G Duffield 5
19	000000	Dann McIncham (C) 9	12	000000	IRON LADDER (14) (C) Mrs M McIncham 9 9 3	17	000000	G Carter 20
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23	000000		16	000000	PETROCK (2) (C) N Smith 3 8 1	21	000000	G Williams 23
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27	000000		20	000000	BANFILL BRUTE (1) (C) B Bough 7 9 0	25	000000	Dale Gibson 10
28	000000		21	000000	MARANA (2) (C) W Hildner 3 9 0	26	000000	A McCarry (P) 9
29	000000		22	000000	TAMMY HART (C) W Lewis 3 9 0	27	000000	A Dale Gibson 10
30	000000		23	000000	LUNAR MUSIC (8) S B Bowring 4 8 1	28	000000	F Lynch 9
31	000000		24	000000	LA TOUCH (7) (C) J O'Brien 5 8 8	29	000000	T Quinn (P) 14
32	000000		25	000000		30	000000	

# Struggle for Sadian

POSSIBLE St Leger candidate Sadian struggled to win the Salisbury Festival Stakes yesterday. Sadian needed a convincing victory over his two opponents in order to justify a £30,000 supplementary entry for the Leger but, attempting to quicken off a slow pace set by Secret Archive, Sadian found himself sandwiched as Richard Quinn sought to drive him between that rival and Winter Garden two furlongs out.

Quinn had to fight for every inch of ground and Sadian naturally managed to force his way through to hold Secret Archive by half a length, with Winter Garden three parts away.

John Dunlop, Sadian's trainer, admitted that his charge had failed to impress.

The leading Cambridgeshire fancy Captain Scott will miss the race. The four-year-old was quoted at 16-1 by the Toté.


His trainer, Jeremy Glover, had no doubts about Sadian's

BD, ... WJC

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REGIMENT CUP CLASSIFIED 5 (CLASS D) £10,000 added 6f	
97- Mrs N MacIntyre 29.5	F McCreck
98- Mr J Barry 39.5	J Fontaine 1
99- (2) C. J. McKeown 39.5	D Gifford 6
100- (2) C. J. McKeown 49.2	T O'Brien 1
101- Mr J. M. 39.5	A C. Cullen 6
102- (2) J. M. 39.5	A C. Cullen 6
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1	C Macken 12	Brews, 12-1 Bodfordstrand, Shilling Greenacre; Potts Dancers, Elton
2	I. Duffell 11	Brews, Most Respectful, 14-1 others
3	W. A. & A. H. Halls 10	
4	W. A. Catter 10	
5	J. Fortune 10	
6	J. Hill 7/10	
7	G. P. D. 9	
8	M. Pearson 10	
9	R. Carchana 3	
10	K. Dingley 8	
11	T. Dwyer 1	
12	S. Sanders 5	
13	R. Hughes 17	
14	W. A. & A. H. Halls 10	
15	P. Hargrett 17	
16	A. M. W. 10	
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18	W. S. 20	
19	A. M. W. 10	

FIRST SHOW						
HAYDOCK 4.05 						
Horse	C	H	L	S	T	
Criton	7-1	7-1	8-2	7-1	7-1	
Asphand Dancer	7-1	7-1	8-2	8-1	8-1	
Norfolk Jay	8-1	8-1	8-1	8-1	8-1	
Avonleigh Charmen	10-1	10-1	11-1	10-1	10-1	
Yakky Pak	10-1	8-1	11-1	10-1	10-1	
Classic Impact	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1	
Red Revolution	14-1	14-1	15-1	14-1	14-1	
Golden Regiments	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	
My Phlegm	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	
Polka Carlos	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	
Wings Assembled	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	

Both Truth Seeker and

2	HARD PLACED	2
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5	FOLLOW M	5
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7	MORNING	7
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9	THE MAND	9
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Dancing Rio	16	20	14	20	14	20	14
Jeopardy!	25	15	19	21	20	19	20
Magician	16	15	16	20	14	20	14
Survivor	16	15	16	20	14	20	14
Wildly Outrageous	6	15	16	20	14	20	14
Wheelwreck Lady	20	20	25	25	20	20	20
Opposite	20	20	25	25	20	20	20
Stolen Bikes	25	24	24	16	20	20	20

Each week, a quarter of the odds, places 1, 2, 3, & 4  
 C Cox, H Williams H, Luchinsky, S Sharkey, T

## Struggle for Survival

POSSIBLE St Leger candidate Sadian struggled to win the Salisbury Festival Stakes yesterday. Sadian needed a convincing victory over his two opponents in order to justify a £20,000 supplementary entry for the Leger but, attempting to quicken off a slow pace set by Secret Archive, Sadian found himself sandwiched as Richard Hoggan sought to drive him between the rival pair. Winter Garden two furlongs out.

**HAYDOCK 4.05** 

Horse	C	H	L	S	T
Omen	7-1	7-4	9-2	7-1	7-4
Asquith Dancer	8-1	8-4	9-2	8-1	8-1
Woburn Jay	5-1	5-1	7-1	5-1	10-1
Admiral's Chameleon	10-1	10-1	11-1	10-1	10-1
Whisper Hand	8-1	8-4	11-1	10-1	8-1
Critical Impact	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1
Real Bloodlines	10-1	14-1	10-1	10-1	10-1
Golden Regentman	16-1	16-1	14-1	16-1	14-1
My Phlegm	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
Rufus Carlos	14-1	16-1	16-1	14-1	16-1
Whisper Answered	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
Dancing Rio	16-1	20-1	16-1	20-1	16-1
Angelic Story	16-1	20-1	21-1	21-1	20-1
Myogenic	16-1	21-1	16-1	20-1	20-1
Serenity	16-1	21-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Whisper Gaiety	16-1	21-1	21-1	21-1	16-1
Shoreville Lady	20-1	21-1	21-1	20-1	20-1
Operatic	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1
Stonewall	20-1	20-1	16-1	20-1	20-1

Each way, a quarter an odd; places, 1, 2 & 4  
 C 100, H 110, L 120, S 130, T 140

## RACING SERVICES

0891 261 +		
LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS		
EPSOM	971	981
HAYDOCK	972	982
SEDFIELD	973	983
ALL COURSES RESULTS		
0891 261 970		







# Surrey's collapse revitalises title chase

BY JON CULLEY  
at Headingley

Yorkshire 250-9dec & 151-4  
Surrey 147

AN EXTRAORDINARY batting collapse involving the loss of 10 wickets for 60 runs seriously undermined Surrey's County Championship challenge here yesterday.

Surrey's rapid decline from 80 without loss to 140 all out handed Yorkshire an advantage they could not have envisaged as their own innings was falling apart the previous evening - until it was embellished handsomely by Craig White with his second half-century of the match. This created a position from which it will be almost impossible for the Championship leaders to emerge with anything better than a draw. If that is the outcome following Gloucestershire's victory on Wednesday and Lancashire's yesterday the race would be throw wide open.

After restricting Yorkshire to 250 for 9, thanks to a successful final session on Wednesday, everything went to plan for Surrey in the first hour yesterday as Mark Butcher and Ian Ward briskly set about putting Holloake's game plan into practice. It had been the captain's wish, in view of a poor weather forecast for the end of the week, to get batting points in the bag as quickly as possible by way of insurance, he said, against a possible washout.

But after the opening pair had put on 80 in 25 overs came a deviation from the script as spectacular as Surrey's rivals could have wished for. It was brought about mainly by a continuing run of form from the Yorkshire all-rounder, Gavin Hamilton, whose recent improvement has led him to question the wisdom of committing himself to a limited international future with Scotland. Hamilton, taking advantage of a pitch still offering lively bounce and movement off the seam, ran through

Surrey's innings to such devastating effect that he finished with figures of 7 for 50 in 17.1 overs. Matthew Hoggard, only 21 and another product of Yorkshire's successful academy, collected three wickets.

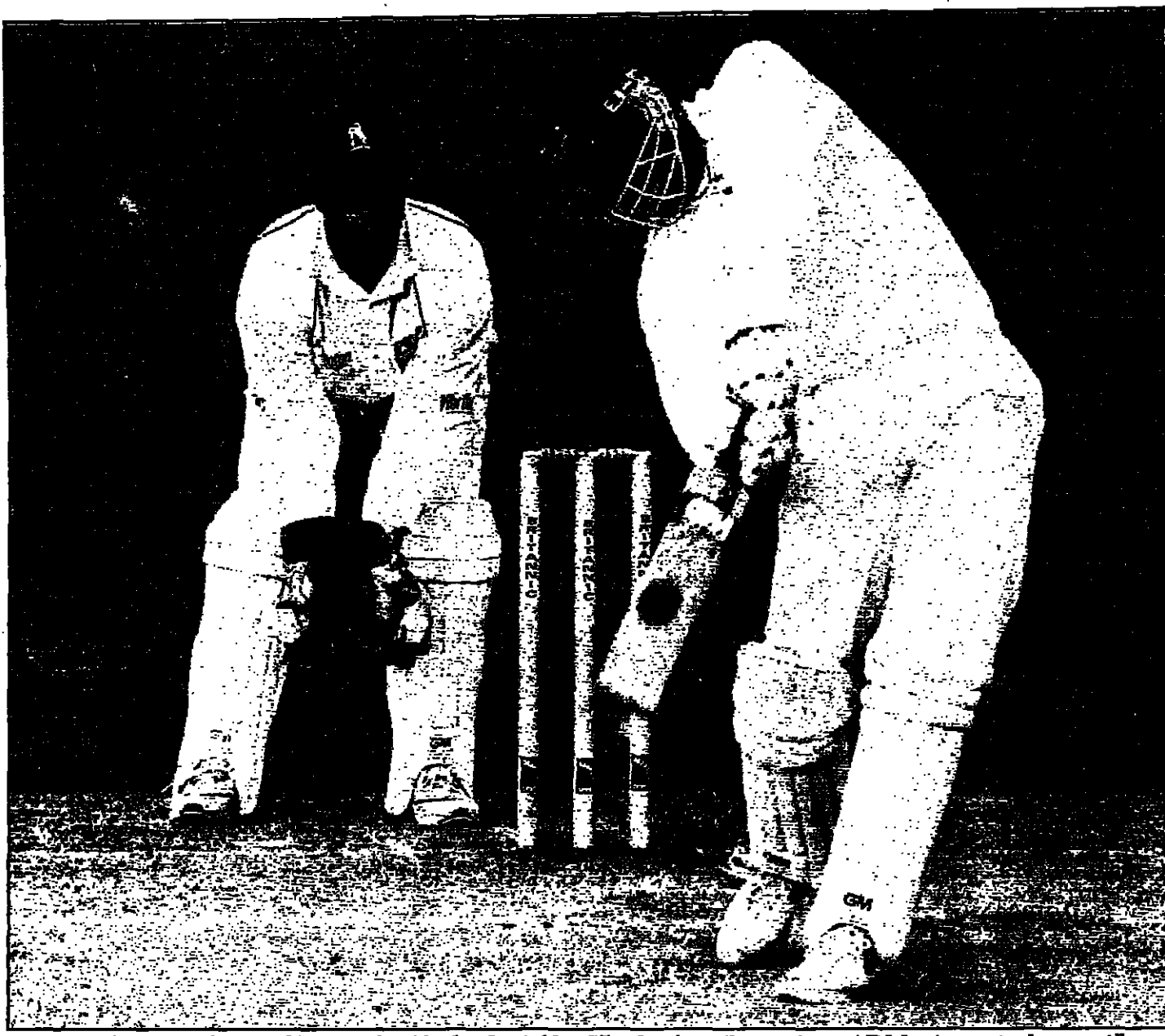
For 24-year-old Hamilton, raised in Kent but born in Scotland, the analysis represented his fourth career-best display in three matches. He took 5 for 69 and 5 for 43 against Glamorgan last month and followed that with 6 for 50 against Essex.

Hamilton has been chosen to play for England in next month's World Super Max Eight in Perth but by agreeing to play for Scotland against Bangladesh earlier this year he disqualified himself from representing England in official ICC competitions. Given that consideration for an England A place might have been on the cards, he is appealing against his ineligibility on the grounds of confusion over the rules.

This, of course, was of no consequence to Surrey as the departure of Butcher, who played over a full-length ball from Hamilton, precipitated Surrey's rapid decline. Ward was lbw to Hoggard, Nadeem Shahid fenced to White at first slip and Ally Brown nicked an outswinger to the keeper, four wickets falling in six overs for 18 runs.

Worse was to follow after lunch as conditions continued to aid swing as well as seam movement, as Alec Stewart and both Adam and Ben Holloake departed with the total on 125. Martin Bicknell, splendidly caught by David Byas at second slip, became Hamilton's sixth victim before Hoggard tore out Saqlain Mushtaq's off-stump. Hamilton completed his work by trapping Joey Benjamin as Surrey conceded a first-innings lead of 103.

Surrey might have hoped their own seamers would redress the balance but it was not until White and Matthew Wood had taken Yorkshire's lead beyond 200 that two quick strikes by Ben Holloake gave them hope of pegging back the home side.



Leicestershire's Phil Simmons hits Warwickshire bowler Ashley Giles for six on the way to 68 at Edgbaston yesterday

Allsport

## Smith and Simmons set target for Lara

BY HENRY BLOFIELD  
at Edgbaston

Leicestershire 389 & 291-8 dec;  
Warwickshire 276 & 48-0

AN INNINGS of splendid and forthright Scottish determination by Dougie Brown enabled Warwickshire to save the follow on with eight wickets down. Leicestershire were then indebted to the spirited stroke-play of Ben Smith, for the second time in the match, and Phil Simmons to leave Warwickshire a target of 405 in a minimum of 109 overs.

Warwickshire had to survive 13 overs last night and Nick Knight and Mark Wagh made a most uneasy start against Alan Mullally and Chris Lewis. Then, Wagh began to time the ball well and they go into the last day needing 359 more to win with all their second-innings wickets intact.

On a wearing pitch where the ball is beginning to keep low, it may well be that the weather forecast, uncompromisingly bad for today, will be Leicestershire's greatest enemy. If they can pick up 24 points they will overtake Surrey at the top of the table, barring miracles at Headingley.

Although Brown and Neil Smith added 63 in the first 10 overs of the day, Leicestershire will have high hopes of enforcing the follow-on when Simmons held on to a fierce return catch from Smith and, one run later, Keith Piper was bowled round his legs by Matthew Brimmon. This made the score 220 for 8 with 20 runs still needed, but Brown and Ashley Giles saw the danger pass.

It was clear from Leicestershire's approach in their second innings that they wanted to get Warwickshire in again before the end of the third day. It is never easy to judge a declaration when Brian Lara is playing for the opposition and the likelihood of rain further complicated the issue.

The tendency of most captains is to bat on for too long and often the best answer is arrived at when the side wanting to declare is bowled out, sparing the captain the decision. If the side batting last thinks it has a chance of winning, they will be that much more likely to get themselves into trouble in pursuit of victory. It is a fine balancing operation.

Leicestershire's first two second-innings wickets fell to Ed Giddins. Ian Sutherland then played some good strokes before he became the first of Piper's two stumping victims. After that, Smith and Simmons put on exactly 100 in 17 overs and Lewis went on until the lead had topped 400.

## Lloyd strikes in double time

BY DAVE HADFIELD  
at Old Trafford

Derbyshire 281 and 198  
Lancashire 487

Lancashire won by 18 runs

WHILE ONE member of the Lloyd family was waiting to hear whether he would keep his job, another was doing his best to near perfection as Lancashire beat Derbyshire to increase the pressure on Surrey at the top of the County Championship.

It might have been an uncomfortable day for the England coach, David, but his son, Graham, had one to remember as he hammered the bowling of tomorrow's NatWest final opponents for an unbeaten 212.

It was a mild surprise when the younger Lloyd was named this week in England's one-day party after a

fairly undistinguished season that had brought him just one century. But yesterday he built on his overnight 56 with some savage hitting. When he had finished inflicting his damage on Derbyshire, Lancashire's bowlers took over finishing Derbyshire's second innings still eight runs short of the Lancashire total.

It took John Crawley two balls at the start of the day to complete his century, working Dominic Cork away square for four. The last ball of the same over saw him dismissed, caught by Karl Krikken when he nicked one off his hip. But he was then comprehensively upstaged by a Lloyd, although it seemed for a time that he might not find the partners to stick with him. Andrew Flintoff, Warren Hegg and Wasim Akram all got into their teens before

giving up their wickets tamely before Ian Austin was the victim of an extraordinary run out.

Having edged through the slips, Austin set off for the other end at his leisure, only for Cork to pursue the ball, retrieve it just before the rope and uproot the middle stump at the bowler's end on the full. It was a spectacular piece of cricket in tune with a spectacular match.

Much of the spectacle came from Lloyd, who found his most reliable heft in Glen Chapple. "Son of Bumble" reached his century in a fluent but sensible 123 balls and then went completely berserk, hammering the spin of Ian Blackwell for 28, with four fours and two sixes, in one over before lunch. Chapple went for 42 and Lloyd then earned the strike to reach his double century and remain undefeated.

The prospect of a defeat inside two days now hung over the visitors and the collapse almost began immediately, but Wasim put down a catch when Kim Barnett sliced Peter Martin on four, another edge from the opener flashed through the slips when he was on 24 but he was out to Wasim one run later.

Michael May, Matthew Cassar and Ben Spillings all went without suggesting that they could take the game into its final day but Robin Weston and Cork attempted to steady the ship. When both went lbw in consecutive overs Derbyshire were close to capitulation. The end came rapidly after that with DeFreitas edging Martin to Hegg and Wasim removing Vince Clarke and Blackwell. In the last over of the day, Martin took Glenn Roberts and Lancashire were second in the county table.

### Britannia Assurance Championship

#### Lancashire v Derbyshire

OLD TRAFFORD (Day 3 of 4): Lancashire (24pts) beat Derbyshire (1pts) by an innings and 8 runs

Derbyshire won toss

Derbyshire — First innings 281 (Cassar 70, DeFreitas 69)

Lancashire — First innings 487 (Lloyd 212)

Second innings

Derbyshire — Second innings 198

Lancashire — Second innings 487

Derbyshire won toss

Derbyshire — First innings 281 (Cassar 70, DeFreitas 69)

Lancashire — First innings 487 (Lloyd 212)

Second innings

Derbyshire — Second innings 198

Lancashire — Second innings 487

Derbyshire won toss

Derbyshire — First innings 281 (Cassar 70, DeFreitas 69)

Lancashire — First innings 487 (Lloyd 212)

Second innings

Derbyshire — Second innings 198

Lancashire — Second innings 487

Derbyshire won toss

Derbyshire — First innings 281 (Cassar 70, DeFreitas 69)

Lancashire — First innings 487 (Lloyd 212)

Second innings

Derbyshire — Second innings 198

Lancashire — Second innings 487

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Lancashire — First innings 487 (Lloyd 212)

Second innings

Derbyshire — Second innings 198

Lancashire — Second innings 487

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Derbyshire — First innings 281 (Cassar 70, DeFreitas 69)

Lancashire — First innings 487 (Lloyd 212)

Second innings

Derbyshire — Second innings 198

Lancashire — Second innings 487

Derbyshire won toss

Derbyshire — First innings 281 (Cassar 70, DeFreitas 69)

Lancashire — First innings 487 (Lloyd 212)

Second innings

Derbyshire — Second innings 198

Lancashire — Second innings 487

Derbyshire won toss

Derbyshire — First innings 281 (Cassar 70, DeFreitas 69)

Lancashire — First innings 487 (Lloyd 212)

Second innings

Derbyshire — Second innings 198

### Warwickshire v Leicestershire

EDGBASTON (Day 3 of 4): Warwickshire (6 pts), with all second-innings wickets in hand, require 359 runs to beat Leicestershire (9 pts)

Leicestershire won toss

Leicestershire — First innings 389 (Smith 68, Brimmon 54, Manton 4-90)

Warwickshire — First innings 276 (Simmons 68, Giles 4-40)

Second innings

Leicestershire — Second innings 291

Warwickshire — Second innings 487

Leicestershire won toss

Leicestershire — First innings 389 (Smith 68, Brimmon 54, Manton 4-90)

Warwickshire — First innings 276 (Simmons 68, Giles 4-40)

Second innings

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Second innings

Leicestershire — Second innings 291

Warwickshire — Second innings 487

### Third NatWest Under 19 Test

England v Pakistan

CHELSEA (Day 4 of 4): Pakistan beat England by 8 wickets

England — First innings 423 (Key 88, Logan 71, Gough 67, Grose 61, Irfan Fazl 4-141)

Pakistan — First innings 359 (Imran Nazir 65, Irfan Fazl 62, Hasan Raza 60, Frank 4-64)

Second innings

England — Second innings 162 (Kashif Raza 4-26, Zahid Saeed 4-79)

Pakistan — Second innings 31-0

England won toss

England — First innings 423 (Key 88, Logan 71, Gough 67, Grose 61, Irfan Fazl 4-141)

Pakistan — First innings 359 (Imran Nazir 65, Irfan Fazl 62, Hasan Raza 60, Frank 4-64)

Second innings

England — Second innings 162 (Kashif Raza 4-26, Zahid Saeed 4-79)

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England won toss

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England — Second innings 162 (Kashif Raza 4-26, Zahid Saeed 4-79)

Pakistan — Second innings 31-0

England won toss

England — First innings 423 (Key 88, Logan 71, Gough 67, Grose 61, Irfan Fazl 4-141)

Pakistan — First innings 359 (Imran Nazir 65, Irfan Fazl 62, Hasan Raza 60, Frank 4-64)

Second innings

England — Second innings 162 (Kashif Raza 4-26, Zahid Saeed 4-79)

Pakistan — Second innings 31-0

England won toss

England — First innings 423 (Key 88, Logan 71, Gough 67, Grose 61, Irfan Fazl 4-141)

Pakistan — First innings 359 (Imran Nazir 65, Irfan Fazl 62, Hasan Raza 60, Frank 4-64)

Second innings

England — Second innings 162 (Kashif Raza 4-26, Zahid Saeed 4-79)

Pakistan — Second innings 31-0

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### Britannia Assurance Championship

Surrey (8)

Leicestershire (10)

Lancashire (11)

Gloucestershire (7)

Yorkshire (10)

Derbyshire (1)

Warwickshire (15)

Nottingham (9)

Gloucestershire (13)

Somerset (18)

Warwickshire (14)

Derbyshire (14)

Warwickshire (14)

Derbyshire (14)

Warwickshire (14)

Derbyshire (14)

Warwickshire (14)

Derbyshire (14)

Warwickshire (14)

Derbyshire (14)





## SPORT

ANDERTON REPAYING THE FAITH P20 • BEST'S HARD-UP PROFESSIONALS P23

## Premier League opens the door

BY NICK HARRIS

THE PREMIER League said yesterday it was prepared to negotiate with Media Partners, the Italy-based marketing company behind a proposed super league, over the future of football in Europe.

Although the move reduces the possibility of a breakaway league, it may lead to confrontation between Uefa, European football's governing body, and the Premier League. It may also lead to some role in European football for Media Partners, a move thought highly unlikely until the Premier League understood how seriously some of its clubs were considering breaking away.

The news came after a meeting between 20 Premier League chairmen and Media Partners yesterday morning in London. Peter Leaver, the chief executive of the Premier League, said afterwards: "We had a very positive meeting. The mood of the meeting was to look forward. The meeting listened very carefully to presentations from Media Partners and Uefa and noted the points made."

"There was clear and unanimous opposition to the suggestion of a breakaway but it was agreed that reform of European club competitions was needed," he said. Media Partners' proposals, which were put to the chairmen yesterday, include a three-tier league of 36 clubs, and a knock-out competition involving 96 clubs from all of Uefa's 51 domestic leagues. Media Partners said that domestic leagues would continue to operate as normal.

The Premiership clubs were told that 10 places will be available each season for them (four in the league, and six in the cup) and a total of 244m would be shared between the four in the league and at least £28m with the six in the cup.

The proposals would be funded through the sale of television rights, and would guarantee Media Partners having a six-year marketing role.

Leaver stressed that any further negotiations with Media Partners would happen through the Premier League and not by individual clubs, several of whom - including Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool - have had secret negotiations about the plans. It is understood that several clubs met with Media Partners after yesterday morning's meeting to continue planning the super league, and that the Premier League will have more meetings of its own in the near future.

"We will continue to welcome, through the League, talks with interested parties and to work closely with Uefa's task force [set up last weekend to plan change for Uefa's competitions] to bring about positive change in the interests of English football," Leaver said. "Nothing is in. Nothing is out. The paper is blank. We'll have to see what develops."

In an unprecedented move, Gerhard Aigner, Uefa's general secretary, was invited to address the 20 Premier League chairmen. Uefa's stance so far has been to completely reject Media Partners' proposals, and Aigner's comments as he left the meeting suggest it has not changed. "We don't need television people to develop football concepts," he said, and maintained Uefa had no intention of working with Media Partners.

Leaver said Media Partners' plans have been a "good stick with which to beat Uefa" into making changes to its competitions and give more money to the clubs participating. The Uefa task force - which includes Leaver - will meet on 14 September in Geneva and aims to prepare a report in time for the Uefa executive meeting on 6 October. Potential conflict lies ahead.



Scotland complete their training in Glasgow yesterday before they flew out to Lithuania for tomorrow's European Championship qualifying match

Scottish News

## Owen's pace gives Shearer space

BY GLENN MOORE  
in Stockholm

THE LAST time Alan Shearer was in Stockholm he narrowly avoided being the fall guy in Graham Taylor's most infamous substitution.

With England losing 2-1 to Sweden and about to miss out on a place in the semi-finals of the 1992 European Championships, Shearer was told to warm up only for Alan Smith to be sent on instead. Off came Gary Lineker, still a goal short of Bobby Charlton's England record.

England lost, neither Lineker nor Smith played for England again and Taylor's relationships with press and public were irretrievably damaged. Shearer went on to be Lineker's successor as captain and centre-forward.

Six years on England are again searching for their first win in Stockholm since 1937, again in a European Championship tie, again with the manager and captain under pressure. While Glenn Hoddle needs a re-

sult to stem the growing criticism of his manner and methods, Shearer needs a goal, or at least a dynamic performance, to silence the whisperers about his place.

His captaincy is challenged by Tony Adams' assertion that he should be skipper, and his role as goalscorer is under threat from the emergence of Michael Owen. While Shearer's place is not in doubt as yet - and, unlike Lineker, he has the support of his coach - the time is coming when Owen may be regarded as the leading striker.

Since returning from injury in January he has had a poor return for Newcastle and scored once from open play in his last five England games. His World Cup performances were disappointing given his previous high standards and, in difficult circumstances, he has not started the season well at Newcastle.

Yet there remains a calm certainty about Shearer and, as he looked forward to tomorrow's first qualifying match, he appeared at

ease with himself and his "rivals". Of Adams, whose comments came in his recently serialised book, he said: "I haven't spoken to him about it but he would say that because he is Tony Adams and you make sure you look after your own interests. Glenn Hoddle has chosen me for his reasons and that's that as it goes."

Adams and Shearer are not close but there is a deep professional respect. Shearer is clearly unhappy with this week's focus, though, and he added: "There's been enough rubbish written and said this week but the only important thing is the match. I've no problem with people doing books but it's a shame we're so close to it and this is dominating the build-up."

Shearer was happier on the subject of Owen, with whom he appears to be developing a promising relationship probably assisted by sharing the same personal adviser. "Even before Sunday [when Owen scored a hat-trick against Shearer's Newcastle] I knew he was a very ex-

citing player with a great future ahead of him. Don't talk about his age because he is doing it now. The important thing is he wants to learn and wants to listen."

Pressed, he added: "I do see something of myself in the way he handles things on and off the pitch. He's a bit more sure than most 19-year-olds will ever be and he handled it. He hasn't changed from the day he came in. He's a very confident lad; he gives and takes his fair share of stick like everyone."

Shearer has passed on a few tips to Owen though he is not convinced he needs much help. "He said to me when we were taking the penalties against Argentina: 'What shall I do?' I just said: 'Do what you normally do, put it in the back of the net.' And he did. I was always confident he would score."

Shearer hopes Owen's presence will give him more space; his pace certainly gives England more options. "If there's one thing defenders don't like it's movement and pace

and he has both. He presents a dilemma for defenders. Do they sit deep and cut his pace off which creates space in midfield for us? Or do they play up the pitch, try and play him offside, and leave space for him to run into?"

Shearer would not be drawn on the recent changes at Newcastle but he insisted that speculation about his own future did not affect his focus. "After the disappointment against Argentina it is important to get off to a good start, especially for anyone who has not got that out of their system."

Shearer did that with some R&B in Barbados on a family holiday. "I was disappointed but also relieved it was all over because of the pressure involved. It was difficult to take it home because I have two little girls. They want to hold you and you can't be running around being miserable. They don't understand and I don't want them to."

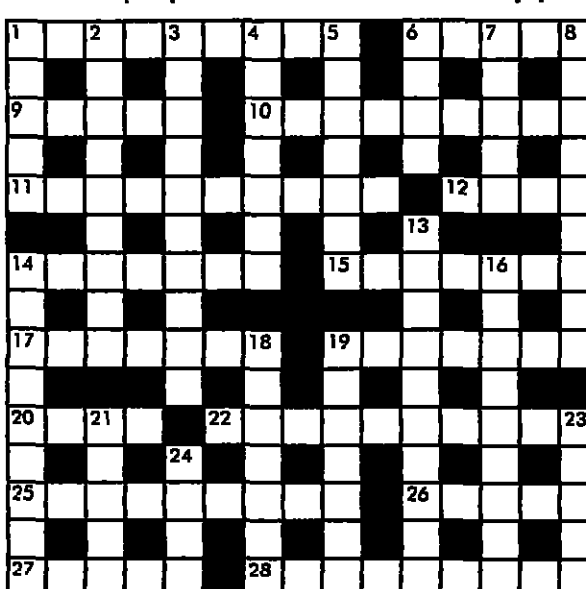
Only a game then? Not any more but a little perspective never goes amiss.

## THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD

No. 3787, Friday 4 September

By Sporics

Thursday's solution



DOWN  
1 DEPUTY with old gun riding in carriage mostly (9)  
6 Hospital wing housing oriental women's quarters (5)  
9 Seaweed initially obscured fish (5)  
10 Damaged pool car is behind chafed (9)  
11 Source of rolls, the kind you get in bars (10)  
12 Somewhat gloomy, this story (4)  
14 Northern town newspapers mostly associated with style (7)  
15 Rebellious group in France facing lawsuit (7)  
17 English magazine for Germans carrying article in Chinese, for instance (7)  
19 Mean to declare with a good chance, ultimately (7)

ACROSS  
20 Ambassador's ring stolen - and why? (4)  
22 Give information about subject - just superficial knowledge (10)  
23 Creed a nun translated, showing perseverance (9)  
26 Stand for a bathroom item not quite finished (5)  
27 Let's start to live with simplicity (5)  
28 We hear sirens let off (9)

DOWN  
1 Fire engulfs opening of tall chimney (5)  
2 Strings he's pulled to get justice (9)  
3 Old landlord accepting writer's public communication (4, 6)  
4 Lecturer subjected to a prohibition quit (7)  
5 Attention focused on mistake - cover of The Listener (7)  
6 Optimism evident as man secures work (4)  
7 Having account opened in bank is something of an event (5)  
8 Slip, or what one sometimes does, we're told? (3)  
13 Use more gas for cooking a cereal etc. (10)  
14 Breakfast with bishop, perhaps, or description of parts of it? (9)  
16 Incline to the right? (9)  
18 No sodium in pharmacist's measure - that's insignificant (7)  
19 Unsophisticated East-ender's without tender feeling, we hear (7)  
21 What Dvorak would have drunk right? (5)  
23 Suppose visitors take time out (5)  
24 Release without charge (4)

## Lloyd escapes with 'severe reprimand'

CRICKET  
BY DEREK PRINGLE

DAVID LLOYD, the England coach, yesterday escaped severe censure after meeting with his employers, the England and Wales Cricket Board. Instead, his thinly veiled comments over the bowling action of Muttiah Muralitharan, made as England struggled to a 10-wicket defeat against Sri Lanka at The Oval, have brought him a second warning in two years.

In a statement yesterday, Tim Lamb, chief executive of the ECB, said: "Following his inappropriate comments about the Sri Lankan off-spinner, Muttiah Muralitharan, and his subsequently reported altercation with a television presenter, David Lloyd has been severe-

ly reprimanded, warned about his conduct and left in no doubt as to the responsibilities that go with such a high-profile position. The matter is now closed and David goes as coach to Dhaka and to Australia with our full support."

The meeting, which was attended by Lamb, Simon Pack, the international teams director, and Lesley Portlock, the personnel manager, was not a disciplinary one. Sri Lanka, despite their captain Arjuna Ranatunga's outburst, in which he said he "couldn't care less if Lloyd lost his job", had not officially complained, merely asked the ECB to investigate.

Lloyd, a popular coach, is generally reckoned to have done a good job since taking over in May 1996. A highly strung and immensely patriotic man, he

unfortunately allowed his private feelings to spill out into the public domain. Zimbabwe, where he was warned following a drawn Test England should have comfortably won, was a case in point.

For former players of Lloyd's generation, suspect actions are an emotive subject. One former Essex spinner, when told by a local radio reporter that Muralitharan had been cleared by an ICC panel, said: "Who was on it? Eric Brindley and Jockey Wilson?" Although it did not bear his position as coach, it was those sentiments that Lloyd was echoing with his ill-judged innuendo.

Having pondered his actions, the England coach, whose contract expires after next year's World Cup, was suitably contrite. "I am sorry for the offence that I have caused," he said.

## Bedford strike threat

RUGBY UNION  
BY ROBERT COLE

CARDIFF'S CONTROVERSIAL friendly fixture with Bedford tomorrow, which had been arranged without the approval of the Welsh and English authorities, is being threatened by a strike by the Bedford players.

The players are unhappy because they did not receive their pay cheques on 1 September. After a series of meetings they put an ultimatum yesterday to the old board of directors, who

now own just 10 per cent of the club following the takeover by Frank Warren.

Paul Turner, Bedford's director of coaching, said: "The players asked for guarantees that money will be forthcoming in the future, that players' bonuses will be paid and that our tax difficulties will be sorted out."

The players have discussed strike action, but the Bedford chief executive, Geoff Cooke, said: "If not playing on Saturday has crossed their minds they need to know it would not achieve anything. It would be a

breach of their contracts and would be reflected when it came to paying their wages at the end of September."

He added: "Frank Warren has told them they will be paid their August wages on 14 September. He is asking for a couple of weeks and bearing in mind how far he has brought the club, that is reasonable. He has made a promise and if that is not borne out in two weeks' time we will have to take stock then. The club has a cash flow problem like all clubs at this time of year. It's hardly surprising we're struggling."

If you like the sound of the South of France you'll love the taste.

A faraway look comes into people's eyes when mention is made of the South of France. For most, it is the capital of chic: a sun-kissed playground of exotic resorts and spectacular scenery - among them, La Moutte, La Bouliardiere and Les Garrigues de Truilhas, where James Herrick makes the definitive Midi Chardonnay. Rich, stylish and full of taste; fresh, yet fruity and long-finishing. And amazingly inexpensive. Why settle for vin ordinaire when you can afford the glorious South?



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# FRIDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

**T**his week, while most politicians headed for the Commons to debate the anti-terrorism Bill, Margaret Thatcher's dark blue Jag could be found heading in an entirely different direction along London's North Circular. If there is a hell – and many believe that Lady Thatcher might know a thing or two about how to create such a place – then the North Circular is certainly part of its integrated transport system. In fact, it may be one of the few places in Britain with more noise, dirt and stupid stunts than Parliament. Hardly surprising, then, that the Lady seemed remarkably relaxed as she arrived, resplendent in a Wizard of Oz green coat, at the Nissan dealership, just opposite the World of Leather superstore.

The place was in a state of high excitement. A tea-table had been set up in front of a violently turquoise convertible. Seth, the man who valets the cars, was everywhere with his video-camera. About 30 people were on hand to watch as Lady Thatcher handed over the keys to a new Motability Scheme car-owner to mark the charity's 21st year. The whole thing took an hour and Lady Thatcher was a total professional throughout. If she would rather have been elsewhere, you would never have known it. The woman who commands a reputed £35,000 per speech abroad (though not in Britain) was doing this one for free, because she is a patron and has been for decades. Everyone was smiling except for two Nissan customers who had fled to the coffee room. John and Lily Alford had come by to pick up their brand-new Micra, only to find their car dealership in the grip of the Iron Lady. Didn't they want to meet her? John looked incredulous. "No! It took us 10 years to get rid of That Woman."

She will always be That Woman to most Britons. When I told people I was going to see Mrs Thatcher, there were two reactions. "How can you stand to be in the same room? Evil woman!" said one camp. "So what does she look like?" asked another. "What is she doing these days anyway?"

They may stop for a moment to discuss the interview that appeared last week in *Saga* magazine, in which Lady Thatcher reveals an ongoing bitterness against the men who betrayed her, her sadness at rarely seeing her grandchildren and the fact that she does her own ironing. (Spot the truly unbelievable statement.) But surely the leader who not so long ago was the most powerful woman in the world should engender something beyond revulsion and mild curiosity in her own country? In America, former presidents (even falling-down ones such as Gerald Ford) are treated with utmost respect as they organise their libraries and beaver away at their memoirs. They are always called "Mr President", never That Man. No such respect here for a Lioness in Winter.

She is adored in the States, often to the point of embarrassment. Take this, from a speech by Congressman Dick Armey from Texas. "When you think of freedom, what comes to mind? I think of the Liberty Bell. I think of President Reagan's speech at the Berlin Wall. And I think of Lady Thatcher," he says. "Lady Thatcher has left an indelible mark on virtually all areas of international policy. Her extraordinary political vision and self-confidence, as well as her profoundly nationalistic approach to foreign policy, have prompted comparisons with Winston Churchill, Charles de Gaulle, Elizabeth I and Victoria."

You can see why her favourite seat these days is on board a transatlantic aircraft. This year she will go there on seven speaking tours. (Her next one is scheduled right after her upcoming jaunt round Croatia.) This is good not only for her ego but, with each one earning her tens of thousands of pounds, also for her bank account. When asked what she had been up to recently, she replied: "I've made quite a lot of money." And spent it, too. Much goes to help the cause of freedom in central and eastern Europe through the Thatcher Foundation (which is a company, not a charity) and to endowing the archives she is sending to Cambridge. In addition, she is setting up something called the Chair of Enterprise Studies at that university. Oxford, which refused to give her an honorary degree, is not mentioned.



BY ANN TRENEMAN

## The lioness in winter

She still moves among the trappings of power, though now far away from its reality. In public, her constant refrain is betrayal – of both her and her 'legacy'. Retirement for Lady Thatcher has brought not rest, but only further battles

In person, she is much smaller and less plasticky than expected. On television she wears that terrifying lacquered, teased-up hair helmet (a style that seems to be favoured by other women of true power, such as the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright) but, for the North Circular, the hair was much calmer and in the realm of the believable. Her teeth, so infamously painful to engineer, looked good. She wafted a bit, smelling old-fashioned and talcum-powdery, and her conversation veered between chatty and bossy. One moment she was revealing her recipe for spag

bol, the next telling the photographer exactly how to take her picture. In one dicey moment, she was separated from her black patent alligator handbag. "You're removing my trademark," she said. The handbag was back in hand within nanoseconds.

Such a person, for all her recipes, cannot be lovable. While she definitely has the human touch for the purposes of the odd trip to the North Circular, she remains separate from her party, the people of Britain and also her own family.

This separateness, the overriding

theme of her recent interviews, is the theme of her career and perhaps her life. She is 72 years old, and the first woman prime minister has now been the first woman ex-prime minister for some years. Yet she is still searching for her role and, though she would hate the thought, the reason why it is so difficult is probably the fact that she is a woman. She wants to be an international stateswoman, but there is no such word. She also remains a true believer and, as such, seems as if she is permanently playing a tribute album to herself. She has long been a caricature, but has now

become the Gerald Scarfe version. And still no one really knows what to do with her.

She loves to drop domestic details into interviews, but remains completely work-oriented. She may, in fact, make Denis his breakfast of an egg or bacon and tomato ("grilled, never fried") but then she is out through the front door of her Belgravia home and in through the back door of her nearby office at 36 Chesham Place. Here, at last, is a piece of the past. With its floor-to-ceiling curtains, revolving globe of the world and huge desk, the place is not unlike a certain other office. She has a staff

of five or six and works all day, every day she can. Rumours of her drinking, always rife, continue. But does she drink any more whisky than most other (male) politicians? Some say she is losing it. At one recent prizegiving she is said to have worked herself round the greeting-line, only to turn back and start again at the beginning, as if appearing in some musical farce. Others talk of "getting stuck" with her at parties. "She is becoming a bit of an old bat," said one onlooker.

Politics remain her passion. "Her idea of relaxing remains a good political argument," said a friend. But the Tory party does not want to argue with this woman. And it doesn't have to. Unlike most other leaders, she left the Commons as quickly as possible. She appears at party conferences and always makes headlines (last year by covering up the multicoloured tails of British Airways planes) though her comments are hardly constructive.

Take her version of her downfall – a subject that preoccupies her. "She doesn't get up in the morning gnashing her teeth about it, but she is bitter," said one. That much is obvious from her almost petulant description of the events that took place while she was in Paris in November 1990. "It was just about the most cruel thing that could have happened because I had to meet all my colleagues at the conference and go on to a dinner at the Palace of Versailles. I must say, President Bush and Barbara, in particular were absolutely marvellous," she told *Saga*. "I was stunned by the results of the ballot, of course I was... How did I feel inside myself? Inside myself, I felt precious little of some people in the party."

Nor, evidently, has that changed much. "I was lucky. I had 11 and a half years. I got things really right. The Conservative Party had gone left for a long time – a soft left – and we as a government brought it back to true Conservatism. I left with a majority of 100. John Major managed to hold it, and then we had an election and the greatest defeat the party has ever known. It was catastrophic for me because I'd got things right, and that defeat stemmed from that incident."

Could it be that Lady Thatcher is turning into the *doppelgänger* of the man she hates the most, Edward Heath?

And what are we to make about her comments about her own family? Mrs Thatcher's views on motherhood always did seem moored in the land of apple pie and the only part of her version of grandmotherhood that is recognisable is her sadness that it has all turned out so badly.

"Let me put it this way. When your mother is Prime Minister, children are very much in the limelight and the press are very tough on them. So much so that I thought it better for them to leave the country. And they're both still away." She rarely sees her grandchildren, who have dual citizenship. "One day they will have to make a decision as the baronetcy goes down the line," notes their grandmother. Then she says: "Look, you can't have everything. It has been the greatest privilege being Prime Minister of my country and having many friends all interested in the same subjects. Yes, I wish I saw more of my children. We don't have Sunday lunch together. We don't go on holiday, skiing any more. Our grandma used to live with us – my mother's mother – so Granny was always about, and grannies are a great asset. My grandmother used to tell me what life was like in her young days, and I used to sit at her feet fascinated. But I can't regret. And I haven't lost my children. They have to live their lives. I took a different life."

Her daughter Carol responded to this in the pages of the *Daily Mail* ("Is this any way for a family to communicate?") and was clearly not enamoured with the idea of a cosy extended family with Grandma Baroness *in situ*. "No one has all the qualities needed to scale the greasy political pole, and also those that make you want to take your kids cycling and picnicking, and read their bedtime stories." She then tells her mother and us (the readers) that she is planning a trip to see her parents. "I fully admit that I'm no model daughter, but now I know I'm missed I shall try harder."

Carol Thatcher signs off this "letter" not with a "Love" or a "With love", but with a "Yours". Evidently a "Yours truly" would not do either. It makes you see why the North Circular (never mind America) can seem such a friendly sort of place.

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## Scots and English

Sir: David Aaronovitch ("I'm fed up with this myth of superiority spouted by the Scots", 1 September) is right to rehearse the radical tradition in England, and to puncture the conceited claims of blame-the-English Nationalists.

The history of the Union has been one of oppression and exploitation but these have not been carried out by England at the expense of Scotland. The oppressors have been the rich and powerful of both nations, and the exploited are the English and Scottish working classes. The first victims of the money-making machine which became English imperialism were the English and Welsh – the Scots joined them soon afterwards.

After nearly three centuries of shared history, politics, economy and culture, it is undeniable that Scots are British, in the same way that Bavarians are German and Gascons are French. The question is therefore how best to acknowledge Scotland's differences while maintaining its indisputable common British identity. The devolved Scottish Parliament within the Union is a rational way to achieve this end.

The Nationalists' case is based on a fallacious thesis, in that they deny the British side of Scotland's identity. To justify themselves, they are forced into historical and cultural fabrications. The latest of these is that "the Diana stuff" did not happen in Scotland. In fact, in Glasgow this time last year George Square was covered with thousands of bunches of flowers, and in the City Chambers the books of remembrance ran out of space.

Our peoples are too alike to be artificially divided and our island is too small for contrived extra borders.

PETER RUSSELL  
Glasgow

Sir: David Aaronovitch judges the character of a nation – Scotland – on the basis of the views of a single individual who seems to have upset him. If I were to be accosted by a ranting bag-lady in King's Cross, or a National Front skinhead in Deptford, I would not assume that they were representative of the English race.

As someone who is mostly Scots, I would never for a moment condone the sort of hubristic xenophobia which asserts that Scots are somehow innately superior to the English, which is not to say that I would reject the notion of independence based on an economic assessment, or even on differences in cultural values.

Nor does that mean such feats as Scots have accomplished in history should be traduced. It isn't simply some maverick Scottish Internet site which identifies the link between the Declaration of Arbroath and American independence – George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison acknowledged a debt to Scottish influences in the emergence of their republic.

Mr Aaronovitch tears a strip off the Scots for anti-English emotional prejudices, then launches into a splenetic outburst in which he provides a litany of apparently superior English virtues such as the fact that "most of the Chartists" were English (as it happens, one of the leading Chartists was a Scottish relative of mine).

It's time we all grew up – Scots and English – and learned to respect and even celebrate our differences rather than poison what should be a constructive relationship between the two countries, whether politically separate or not. As for David Aaronovitch, could someone not just give the man a *drum* and encourage him to calm down?

DAVID BLACK  
Roxburghshire

## West taken to task

Sir: In his article about Russian carpetbaggers, Dariusz Szaniawski refers to the \$120-200bn of Russia's wealth spirited out of that country and quotes a British police official

as saying, "Capital flight is a matter for the country whose capital is flying" ("Carpetbaggers who take their wealth to the West", 29 August).

The current crisis suggests that it is, and always was, very much a matter for the West too. It was obvious that the Russian economy would become a hotbed of corruption with easy pickings for the Mafia and with massive illegal currency exports a natural result. Why did we not offer to help the Russian government instead of egging it on dogmatically towards full convertibility of the rouble? After all, we would have been quick enough to stop any export of, say, drugs or people: why not currency?

Thus it is the greed of Western governments and banks whose short-termism we have to thank for exacerbating, if not actually causing, the current crisis. Perhaps it is not too late, even now, to include an offer to co-operate with Russia in staunching the drain of foreign currency across our borders as part of any new financial deal.

COLIN MURISON SMALL  
London SE27

Sir: David Anderson ("Death of the African dream", 27 August) puts his faith in the United States and Western intentions and aims in Africa, what he calls the "African Renaissance".

He suggests that IMF/World Bank Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) "have helped nurture the tree of democracy". This is questionable when one looks at the poverty and hardship that these programmes have caused in debt-ridden countries. They are not nicknamed "austerity programmes" by those in the non-profit development sector for nothing. This poverty, itself, can explain some political tensions.

The SAPs are intended to help these countries overcome their

debts. But the third-world debt crisis is the result of amoral and foolish international loans made by the US and Western banks in the late Seventies. International banks have profited vastly by the interest on these loans.

The SAPs involve freeing the markets from government controls, allowing (Western) multinational companies to make "investments" in poorer countries, where labour is cheaper, and safety regulations weaker.

Anderson suggested that the US and the West seemed to consider Kabila's victory in the Congo last year a good pointer to increased stability in Africa: "An African Renaissance was under way, and America was keen to usher it in". How ironic considering that US and "Western" backing kept Mobutu in power in Zaire for so long.

It seems to me that US and Western "hopes that a new age of stability was emerging in Africa" never existed at all, with so much more to gain from misery, debts and political conflict.

JOOST FONTEIN  
East Chelston, Devon

Sir: It is never right to blame the victims of mass murder for their deaths. That is what John Pollock does in his piece on Kitchener (Historical Notes, 2 September), when he says of the deaths of 26,000 civilians during the Anglo-South African War, that "the insatiable habits of the Boer women formed the primary cause of the epidemic". The real reason for the deaths was that Kitchener and the British made war against civilians by incarcerating them in concentration camps. This it has to be acknowledged as a war crime.

JOHN STRAWSON  
London N19

## Weak constitution

Sir: Anthony Barnett ("After Diana: The family that fell to earth", 28 August) ingeniously uses the media's need to exploit Diana's death to slide into his pet subject, the written constitution. I do wonder why commentators harp on about reform of the monarchy, or the Lords, when neither has much power; it is the Commons, which has, whose corruption badly needs reforming.

Politicians love sitting in committees to devise such things as written constitutions. The fallacy is to believe that they guarantee something. Stalin no doubt operated under a written constitution guaranteeing all sorts of democratic rights. Hitler came into power under a written constitution with complete legitimacy. Modern Germany is a democracy not because of her constitution, but because of the determination of her people that it shall be so.

Mr Barnett wants a clean slate, but there is no such thing, as recent history, from the USSR to Ireland, via Yugoslavia, demonstrates. Gavin Lyall once made the observation that freedom and democracy don't depend on constitutions but on the ability of the people to say, "Hey, you can't do that!" Or, if you like, on eternal vigilance. A guarantee created by politicians is a paper shield.

WILLIAM STEVENSON  
Edinburgh

Not my creed

Sir: John Walsh's satirical item "I say there, are you solved?" (31 August) and Eamon Duffy's letter (2 September) should stir the Church, especially the Church of England, to do something about the required recital of the creed in its services.

I squirm when my good priest friends invite the congregations of which I am a part "to affirm our faith by joining in saying the Nicene Creed". This creed does not affirm my faith. It affirms my awareness of the historically ever-developing nature of the Christian faith. It came from a noble desire in the fourth century to express the Christian development of Jewish religious thought in terms of the then current Greek

philosophical view of the world – and from having more than half an eye on Roman ideas of organisation and political unity.

The theological education of the clergy equips us to understand that the gospels are not historical accounts of the life of Jesus, but creative writing a generation or two or three after his death, and that most liturgical language can be understood symbolically. There is, however, a deadening and deadening silence from the hierarchy about these issues. It results in depressed people in congregations walking sadly away from the Church.

When will the bishops and other church leaders give an honest level by sharing publicly their knowledge of the development in biblical and theological scholarship of the last 150 years?

RONALD PEARSE  
Secretary, Sea of Faith Network  
Loughborough, Leicestershire

Measles victims

Sir: I hope the withdrawal of the single measles vaccine ("Measles jab withdrawn due to 'high demand'", 1 September) does not mean that children will not be vaccinated against measles. This disease is not to be taken lightly. Throughout the world many children die from it and I for one was left deaf in one ear by it.

It is easy for us in a healthy country to forget that diseases that have disappeared here are still commonplace elsewhere in the world. It is only through vigilance and immunisation programmes that diseases like smallpox and polio are eradicated.

Elsewhere in the world whether or not to have the triple MMR vaccination would not be a choice. It would not be available to mothers who would dearly love to protect their children in this way.

ANDREW PRING  
Bradford

Feeling the strain

Sir: The news that Norway's Prime Minister, Kjell Magne Bondevik, has taken a week's sick leave because of a "depressive reaction from overwork" shows great courage and openness on his part.

Such admissions have often caused the downfall of politicians. When Michael Dukakis ran for President against Ronald Reagan, and rumours of a past depression came to light, Reagan commented that he would not pick on an invalid – and went on to win.

Being "out" about mental health problems has also cost many lesser mortals their jobs, which partly explains why only 13 per cent of people with long-term mental health problems are working, a lower rate than for any other group of people with long-term health problems.

Let us hope that Mr Bondevik's frankness, and the sympathetic response he has received, is a sign of a new wave of tolerance sweeping across Europe.

LIZ SAYCE  
Head of Policy  
Mind, The Mental Health Charity  
London E15

TV times

Sir: I share the dismay of Alastair Burnet and others at the proposed scrapping of *News at Ten* (report, 2 September).

Most of the time it is the only programme I care to watch. For me, as a teacher, the *Bong* marks the end of my working day, when I can at last set aside my marking and preparation and settle down to the soothing presence of Trevor MacDonald. As for that argumentative and sneering bunch over on BBC2, they just make me want to shout, "Will you lot stop that stupid squabbling?"

What I really love is well made, intelligent, well acted drama. But there is so little of it these days that with the loss of *News at Ten* we may as well throw the television out and save the licence fee. How I'm going to wind down at 10 o'clock is not clear.

KATHARINE WATSON  
Richmond, Surrey

Mall madness

Sir: Mick Hucknall, quoted in your feature "The mall that ate Manchester" (2 September), is absolutely right to describe the Trafford Centre as "the supremacy of Mammon and bad taste." But it was not a planning error as stated.

The building of this appalling monstrosity was a government decision taken against the views of most professional town planners – a decision that was finally passed on a judicial appeal in the House of Lords.

I have said on record (and continue to believe) that its impact on surrounding town centres, and on increased traffic congestion, will be more disastrous than we can contemplate.

Whilst short-term profits for the centre's retailers may increase, the long-term effects on the country's commerce and environment will be damaging.

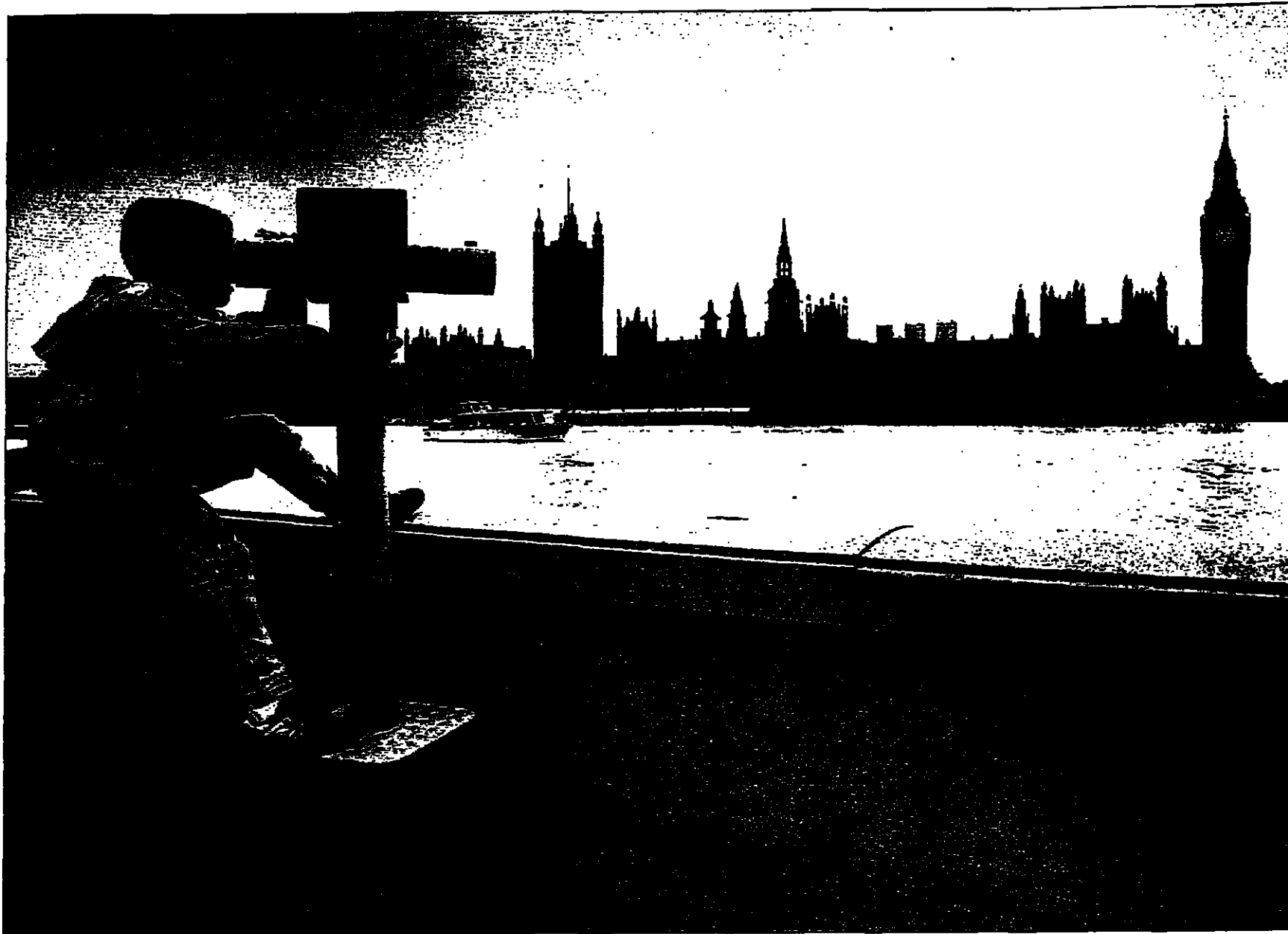
Yes, this mall and others like it do predate the "new thinking about out-of-town shopping". The Government now agrees that we should not all be spending our time sitting on crowded, fume-ridden motorways or under mammoth, sterile domes, sealed off from the environment and reality.

Now is the time to pull down the grotesque Goliath of the Trafford Centre, before it is too late.

TREVOR ROBERTS  
President  
The Royal Town Planning Institute  
London W1

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk  
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Continuing our series on tourism in London, a young visitor overlooks the Houses of Parliament from the Albert Embankment

John Voos

## IN BRIEF

Sir: "Britain is becoming a multiracial, multicultural society": Lesley Downer joins the ranks of *Independent* writers who, with monotonous regularity, trot out this inaccurate statement ("Wanted: a brand new caste", 2 September).

London may be multiracial and multicultural. Britain (94.5 per cent white), Scotland (98.7 per cent white), Wales (98.5 per cent white) are not.

LINDA MITCHELL  
Usk, Gwent

Sir: I wonder how many of your readers gazed at the image of our planet on page 5 of the Wednesday Review ("Life on Earth doesn't need us", 2 September) and marvelled at its beauty. I wonder how many of those readers noticed that Madagascar now lies off the west coast of Africa and that the Arabian Peninsula lies west of the Red Sea.

We are clever but obviously not clever enough, and I would agree with Lynn Margulis that the long-term outlook for the human species is not good.

C STEPHEN FROST  
Columb Bay, Churyd

## A people renowned for kisses, knickers, fries and letters

LESS THAN a fortnight ago my wife and I sat having lunch in a small side-street restaurant in Riberac, on market day down in the Dordogne. We were sitting outside on the terrace. The place was full and everyone was having a great time. The people at the next table had even ordered champagne to finish their meal with (one of them, a lady in a smart suit, was celebrating a new job, and mourning the fact that she had to move to Périgueux to do it). The only thing that marred the occasion for us was that the food was terrible.

I mean, really terrible. The soup was a thin vegetable broth with packet noodles in it. The salad contained what looked like spam. The *confit de canard* wasn't bad, even if the vegetables were. But having chosen cheese instead of a

dessert, I was mystified to find that the cheese selection contained not one fresh cheese. Everything came wrapped in silver paper. On a market day in France, a busy restaurant could not be bothered to buy one fresh cheese. *Incroyable!*

Later I ventured to mention our experience to some local residents. They were surprised. They had heard such good reports of the place. "No," we insisted, "the food was terrible."

"Maybe," they said doubtfully, "but we have always been told that the *ambiance* is terrific."

It was certainly true that the place was full of joyful French eaters. And while puzzling over this contradiction I remembered my friend Bill's theory. I knew Bill at Oxford. Like me, he studied French. Unlike me, he thought he

had got the French sussed out. "What the French are best at is persuading other people that they are best at things," he said. "If you can do that, you don't actually have to be best at anything."

"Give me an example."

"Certainly. Art. The French have convinced everyone that Paris is the art capital of the world. Well, it was once. There was a time when the French either had the best painters or hired them here. But this hasn't been true for ages. Can you think of a single living French painter?"

"Only Bernard Buffet."

"Who is terrible."

"Yes."

"You can't think of a good living French painter yet you see nothing wrong in Paris being thought of as the world's art centre..."

Bill went on to point out that the



MILES KINGSTON  
Like me, Bill studied French. Unlike me, he thought he had got the French sussed out

French also liked to claim leadership of the world of philosophy by producing some fashionable and

disposable school of thought every 20 years. When he expounded the theory to me, he was thinking of existentialism and all that hand-jive. Nowadays he would be thinking of structuralism and all that baloney.

Bill didn't mention wine to me, because in those days even he thought French wine really was the best, but the French have had a harder job talking up their wines in recent years. (I once asked in a French wine shop if they had any Australian wines. "Do they make wines in Australia?" said the man, with a straight face.) But there again, a conjuring trick has been used by the French to maintain supremacy. It is called "vintage years". I once read a booklet about South African wines in which the writer explained that vintage years didn't mean a lot in South Africa be-

cause with consistently good weather in the Cape, every year was a good year. Vintage years were only necessary, he said, in countries like France where they often had bad years. It might have been Bill writing the booklet.

There are some areas in which the French are genuinely good and don't have to show off. Rugby. And soccer too, now. *Bundesligas*. Film. Jazz violinists and pianists. Clothes sense. (I am told that punk fashion never worked in France because the French couldn't bear to be that unstylish, and French punks looked ever so chic.)

There are also areas in which the French are genuinely bad. I think TV may be one. Modern pop music certainly is. Johnny Halliday was the first French attempt to produce a genuine rock musician. Not

only was he pathetically unsuccessful outside France, he is still, 30 years later their only serious contender as "un rocker" – last week *Paris Match* had him on the cover prior to a huge series of rock concerts in the capital. It was as if we had never found anyone to replace Tommy Steele.

Well, was Bill right? Whatever the French are good at, are they really best of all at public relations?

Put it another way: The word "pub" has two meanings in French. When it is masculine, *le pub*, it means a pub. But when it is feminine, *la pub*, it is short for *la publicité* and means public relations. There is no doubt that the French think is more important and which we do. Well, *vive la différence*, as someone once said. Frenchman, probably.

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## Some sound ideas, but don't forget liberalism, Paddy

IT IS the ultimate test of political utility: if the Liberal Democrats did not exist, would we have to invent them? Fortunately for Paddy Ashdown, the answer is emphatically Yes. Without them, there would be a liberal-shaped hole at the heart of the nation. But, by the shades of Gladstone, Keynes and Beveridge, that does not stop Paddy talking a lot of guff. He presented yesterday's wide-ranging policy document as "the most radical repositioning and recasting of a party's agenda I think we have seen in the last five or 10 years".

It was a claim as baseless as it was unnecessary. Whatever we think of the merits of Mr Blair's cult of the New, and his re-writing of Labour's constitution, his is a hard act of repositioning and recasting to follow. And Mr Ashdown should not try to follow it. Liberalism has a past of which it should be proud, and which provides it with a strong claim to the future. Mr Ashdown does not need to go around ditching and dumping in order to produce a party committed to the free market, to Europe, to the environment and to a more democratic constitution. The Liberal Democrat party and its predecessors have long been those things.

We should, too, take yesterday's policy document with a pinch of salt - or, rather, as a pinch of salt. Its function should be to add flavour to the political debate. After all, this is less an old-fashioned composite resolution and more an American-style "platform" for the Lib Dem party convention in Brighton later this month.

The proposals on tax are useful, not because it is feasible to abolish income tax on everyone on, or below, average earnings. It was the case after the war that income tax was only paid by the better-off, but the shape of income distribution has changed since then. Nevertheless, it is worth asking the question: is our tax system progressive enough?

For the vast bulk of the population, combined marginal rates of tax and National Insurance rise (with a dip in the middle) from 33 per cent to 40 per cent. There is a strong case for cutting taxes on income at the lower end, and raising revenue instead from taxes on energy and pollution, with protection for those on state benefits - a case the Liberal Democrats are well placed to make, with both Labour and the Tories prisoners of history in this matter.

As for the other new gizmos in the document, the gist of the policy on pensions is right in suggesting personalised pensions for all but, as Frank Field found, the



details can be diabolical. While the idea of "neighbourhood committees" to run schools, instead of local councils, sounds like the sort of charter for social misfits and busybodies that such well-meaning attempts at local democracy often become.

However, the real value of the Lib Dems is not as a glorified think-tank but as advocates of an ideology. Yesterday, Mr Ashdown trotted out his by-now standard evasion of the question of whether he was moving the party to the left or the right. He says he is moving the party forwards, "out ahead of British politics". It sounds good, but it is meaningless. He should be moving his party towards genuine liberalism.

His consistent defence of civil liberties, his opposition to censorship, his advocacy of our rights as citizens rather than subjects, should all be applauded. Unfortunately, his actions have not always lived up to his words. On Wednesday night, for example, Lib Dem MPs should have been voting against the Government's rushed and unnecessary Terrorism and Conspiracy Bill.

When it comes to the Government's failure to enact Freedom of Information law, and its decision to arrest David Shayler, Mr Ashdown has been curiously muted. His desire to secure a historic reform of the electoral system is understandable, but his pandering to Mr Blair should not be allowed to obscure the liberal message.

## Stop selling off our honours

IT IS now more obvious than ever that when the Prevention of Abuses Act put an end to the scandal of Lloyd George's sale of honours, it simply drove the practice underground rather than eradicated it. Richard Branson has told *The Independent* that the last government hinted at an honour if he would chip in to the Conservative party's coffers. This is the kind of direct *quid pro quo* return for *quid* which was always suspected of the Tories, but never proven. Scrutiny of the published Tory donations from companies showed a remarkable degree of correlation with the award of knighthoods and peerages to their bosses. Labour's much greater openness last weekend about its source of funds revealed a similar, if less strong, correlation.

There are two solutions. One would be to revert to the pre-1925 position, only to remit the funds raised to the Exchequer rather than to the Prime Minister's party. Now that the DVLC has realised that it can save public money by flogging off unusual combinations of numbers and letters, the Treasury could move in to realise the value of the long lists of Ks, OBEs, MBEs and so on, which are currently handed out free of charge. The going rate for peerages before 1925 was £100,000, for baronetcies £40,000 and knighthoods £10,000. Gordon Brown could pay off the National Debt in no time if those were updated to today's prices.

However, that might be thought a little demeaning to the ideas of merit, not to mention honour, which are supposed to be embodied in the honours system.

The other solution would be to abolish knighthoods and rewards for political or royal service, and to give responsibility for the handing-out of honours of equal worth to an independent body. The careful gradation of imperial orders is an incentive to the worst of British snobbery: there should be a single mark of public respect - the British Medal, say. It could be awarded in the Queen's name, on condition that the monarchy give up any pretensions to political power - or "prerogative" as George V used to mispell it when complaining to Lloyd George about his policy. That way, long-serving lollipop ladies and heroic police officers could be recognised without the honours lists being clogged up with time servers and party funders.

Membership of the House of Lords, similarly, should be allocated by an independent commission - to the extent that it is not decided by the rather more exacting mechanism of democratic election.

Fifteen prime ministers after Lloyd George, the old rascal's clean-cut successor has failed to attack the corrupt honours system with his vaunted radicalism.

## A modernised monarchy? I don't think so - just look at poor Harry

THOSE POOR, poor boys must be left alone. This was the sentiment when Diana died. Her sons must be left to develop as "normally" as possible. The gentlemen of the press agreed. At the funeral we were asked not to look at Harry and William, even though millions watched those kids walk for what seemed like miles behind their mother's coffin.

Prince Harry, however, is back on the front pages. He is not being left alone, and I feel as sorry for him as I ever did. The boy has not only got to cope with his loss, but is now being sent off to Eton. This is apparently considered what's best for him. When I look at this teenager in a tweed jacket with leather elbow patches, I could weep. What other 13-year-olds do you know who wear "light sports jackets"? What are they doing to this kid who, when he changes out of his sports jacket will have to change into a penguin suit?

He will be lovingly informed, be referred to as an "F-tit". He will have an armed detective sleeping next door, and he will, according to past survivors of Eton, probably feel so intimidated by the older boys that he will not be able to eat anything. He will follow in the footsteps of his older brother, who was so nervous that when asked what religion he was, had to be told that he was C of E. Perhaps his father had never told him that this was yet another institution that he was head of.

Though Harry has lost his mother, he is being sent to an establishment where women will be few and far between. There is, of course, "the dame" of Manor House who he will have to call Ma'am. Last year, The

*Daily Telegraph*, writing of the plight of Prince William, said that: "No boarding school is better equipped than Eton to offer consolation and support to a boy who has lost his mother." I beg to differ. For a start, inspectors from other independent schools have recently commented on the shortage of women in senior positions on the teaching staff. Fewer than 10 out of 146 means that the pupils have "only limited opportunities to witness adult females in key roles in the school". Eton prides itself on its pastoral care, but please don't try telling me that knowing a few "dames" amounts to anything resembling normality.

This may be the Nineties, when some people are talking about the end of the age of deference, yet, for all the baseball caps and chavs with various Spice Girls, the young princes have entered a system that effectively bypasses the 20th century. I am well aware that putting children into care and calling it education is a long time habit of the ruling classes, but please let us not pretend it has anything to do with a modern sensibility, which apparently the royals are now keen to convey.

Charles, who some would say was permanently traumatised by his experiences at Gordonstoun, could have made a stand about his own children's schooling, but when it comes to public school, we know that the sins of the fathers are invariably revisited upon their own sons. Those who are happy to tell of the dreadful abuse and loneliness they suffered, in what Orwell once called the "nurseries of empire", still feel compelled to inflict such experiences upon their own offspring.



SUZANNE MOORE

*Though Harry has lost his mother he will be sent to an establishment where women will be few and far between*

We have witnessed the efforts that the ageing, dithering, immensely sheltered Charles has made to be more touchy-feely since the death of Diana. According to certain opinion polls, it has paid off. No one, not even me, is totally devoid of sympathy for this damaged specimen.

Yet, despite pronouncements from the palace, and despite the presence of spin doctors on fat cat salaries, what has the modernisation of the monarchy actually amounted to? The public reaction to Diana's death provoked a re-think. Not, you understand, a re-think about the reality of the monarchy, but a re-think about the way that reality is to be presented. "We have certainly learned lessons from the way the Princess carried out her engagements," a palace spokesman said. "We have tried to incorporate a greater informality into the planning of royal events." The

palace has also recognised Diana's unerring ability "at picking issues".

But what is planned informality apart from an oxymoron? It appears to mean that the Queen has seen single parents, pensioners' flat, a public house and a hamburger bar. Little else has changed. Even the Palace admits that when it comes to the Queen, a change of image has not occurred, but rather there has been "a fine tuning" of the way she is presented. This makes her sound like an old boiler, but obviously we all know the Queen is too far gone to alter much. Asking her to appear hip is as silly as expecting us to believe that Tony Blair is fundamentally cool.

Something though, is expected of Charles, and his faltering attempts to deliver a public persona slightly more in tune with the times seems to have fooled at least some of the people some of the time. Yet what has happened to Earl Spencer's pledge to continue to help bring up the boys in "the imaginative way" his sister had pioneered? There was, it must be said, a limit to Diana's imagination, for she presumably must have consented for Prince William to have been sent to Eton in the first place.

Now, as privilege dearly replicates itself in its institutionalised form, we must ask if any thing resembling modernisation has really occurred. The stifled efforts at the common touch have been left to the younger generation of royals, as if we might be persuaded that the products of this archaic institution are just like us. Sometimes they are. Fat, drunk, divorced, gay and miserable.

I'm afraid though that the sight of Harry in his "light sports jacket"

should remind us that, in others ways, these people are not like us at all. Not for them the nightmare of parental choice over schooling, or even the qualms that ordinary people might feel about single sex education, about not living with their own kids for much of the year or about handing over their emotional care-taking to employees. Instead, they are confident that an upbringing which promises "surrogate mothers" and sexual apartheid, which is broken only by the groups of suitable girls who are bussed in occasionally, is character forming.

Diana may have done some of this differently, but on the whole she went along with the programme. Her extraordinary ability was to make people feel she understood something of their lives, even when her own was so vastly different. Not one of the other royals has this gift, and nor is likely to happen if these awful traditions are carried on.

A year ago, we thought that if the monarchy did not modernise, it would be finished - a year later it has made concessions only in its style, not in its substance. Compassion for Harry and William is not enough to quell the demand for change. The monarchy should still be concerned, not at republican hatred, but at public indifference. The odd informal visit to the real world - the way the people of this country live now - only reinforces their distance from it.

What evidence is there that the firm has, in any serious way, become more modern? The Blairs have been anointed as favoured in-laws and, oh yes, Zara Phillips has got her tongue pierced. How radical.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You voted for a future different from the past. Now you must prove that the passion for reason and moderation can turn the power of extremes."  
Bill Clinton  
addressing the people of Northern Ireland

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"A clash of doctrines is not a disaster - it is an opportunity."  
A N Whitehead,  
British philosopher

## WHO WOULD YOU TRUST TO HELP YOU IN A BREAKDOWN EMERGENCY?

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CAPITAL CONTROLS are being recognised as a respectable option for governments wanting an effective policy instrument to prevent further financial turbulence. Malaysia is the first affected Asian country to take the measures of exchange controls. Its decision should be welcomed as an effort to break through the maze of crises. If the Malaysian policies succeed, we can expect others to follow in its footsteps - if the IMF allows them to, that is. *The Star, Malaysia*

DOOMSDAY SCENARIOS for Malaysia are everywhere being drawn, the most common conclusion being that now Dr Mahathir has fenced the country off from the outside world, genuine investors will no longer bother with it. If Mahathir is using these drastic measures to put his house in order, before reopening to the outside world with stronger regulations in place, he may yet have the last laugh. Only time will tell. What matters most is that the regional financial turmoil

## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
*Mahathir introduces exchange controls in Malaysian markets*



which has taken a heavy toll will not bring about social disorder. The moves, contrary to IMF prescriptions, may be what the country needs at this stage. *Hong Kong Standard*

THE SHOCKING measures announced by the Prime Minister, Daim Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, to peg the ringgit at a fixed rate to insulate the economy from further external

vulnerabilities, is hitting the nail right on the head. It is absolutely right to control currency speculation. The bold move will definitely strengthen the value of the ringgit and restore the economy speedily. *Sarawak Tribune, Malaysia*

CAN SUCH drastic and unorthodox measures stop the economy from sliding into a slump? The truth will be known in the critical days ahead. Dr Mahathir hopes that Malaysia can be sheltered from the

turbulence that has rolled the world's financial markets. But interference with the free movement of capital has its costs, and there is no certainty that the new measures will solve Malaysia's economic crisis. Everything depends on how the measures are implemented. Malaysia had better pray that they succeed. If not, there is much to lose. These are a supplement to reforms, not an alternative. Dr Mahathir should remember that. *Straits Times, Malaysia*



# The telly's no place for reality

**CHER**  
(PICTURED) never wanted to be a role model it seems. Chastity Pono, Cher's daughter, explains in her forthcoming book *Family Outing*. "My mother remembers clearly the first time she thought I was gay. 'You were about 11, and we were in Paris. We all decided to play dress up and take silly pictures. You dressed up in my black leather jacket and slicked your hair back, '60s-style. I thought, Oh my God. It was the last choice of how I wanted you to be.'"

Will Keith achieve his dream and become a singing star? Will Carol overcome years of heart-break and become pregnant? Will crippled little Samantha ever dance again? Well, of course they will: because there's no point in telling an against-all-the-odds story if the odds triumph. That's not a story, that's real life; and real life is not something anyone is interested in.

So we are back to the policy vacuum. To continue current policies undermines all those parents who are desperately trying to keep their kids drug-free.

Well, the global drug business represents 8 per cent of world trade. That incidentally is the same as the oil business, to put it in perspective. The drug trade is ruthlessly executed and supplier-led. It is

So let's drop the notion that this is a victimless crime. It costs us all. Edinburgh University tells us that Scotland has the worst record of drug misuse in the Western world, followed by England. We have the Home Office telling us, a matter of weeks ago, that we are in the midst of the UK's worst heroin epidemic. Drug deaths are escalating; we have a 13-year-old boy dead from heroin ingestion; we have a dealer at 14 convicted through the courts and we have a 14-year-old middle-class girl in Aberdeen telling me that heroin is "the coolest, cheapest thing you can do". I wonder what more is needed before we realise that present policies are an unmitigated failure. Those in authority seem unable or unwilling to see this and the only message from government is that more of the same will do.

Too radical, too bold, for you? So what is the solution?

Well let me put things in context. The drug business is supplier-led. The profits are huge. As an example,

Tablets, used monthly will prevent blockages in drains and pipes and will clean and deodorize waste disposal units. There are three packs on offer; a pack of 4 for just £9.99; a pack of 8 for just £18.99 or a pack of 12 for £27.99. All prices include postage and packing.

It was the smart thing for women to clear the path for reconciliation that brought us to this day. And it is the smart thing for women to play a central role in the reconstruction that will usher in a Northern Ireland that fulfills the promise of democracy, prosperity, and yes, peace, for all its citizens. Because as you well know the Peace Agreement was the beginning, not the end.

If you think just about women and girls, what are some of those lessons we want women and girls here and throughout the world to be learning? Do we teach

As you struggle both with issues unique to Northern Ireland and with ones experienced by women everywhere, I want you to know that the American government, the American people, and the larger worldwide community want to help



# Make it safe, but keep it free

THE INTERNET child porn sting that earlier this week resulted in dozens of arrests across the world, has quite rightly been applauded as a key strike against a pernicious business. Having agreed that we should be aware that this global operation has long term implications for freedom of speech on this fledgling medium. If governments can succeed in their strike against one form of expression, why not others? Why not, say, hate speech, marijuana promotion or political dissent? After all, the technology that generates and distributes kiddie porn images is the same technology that processes the traffic on political discussion groups.

This discussion would not have occurred even two years ago. Until recently, civil rights advocates were gleefully portraying the Internet as the key to a Golden Age of free speech. They assured us that this amazing, chaotic medium would deliver a death-blow to State censorship throughout the world.

Looking back to, say, 1996, it seems everyone from the G7 to the man-in-the-street was convinced that the Internet equated to anarchy. Cyberspace, they believed, could never be controlled by any government - totalitarian or otherwise. This is still the common view.

But now, those same civil rights advocates have turned on a shingle, and are warning that the world is on the brink of an era of unprecedented mass censorship. Far from being a morass of anarchy, it turns out that the Internet is homogeneous and orderly - ideal conditions for control. And despite their much vaunted embrace of free speech, the major European States are moving quickly with the United States to ensure that the old vision of the Internet will be still-born.

Developing countries have already travelled a long way down this road. In 1996, China began establishing a technological surveillance mechanism over the Internet to capture and track the pedlars of "detrimental information". Then, on August 13 1996, the government of Singapore announced a plan to institute a draconian Internet censorship policy intended to "focus on content which may undermine public morals, political stability and religious harmony".

Three weeks later, the ASEAN nations (Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) agreed to "police the Internet and block off sites that run counter to Asian values".

European authorities have decided to follow this route, albeit for different reasons. A new European-wide initiative - "Action Plan for Safe Use of the Internet" - will be established this year. Its intention is to conduct the censorship equivalent of a high-tech driftnet fishing expedition over the Internet, blocking access to content deemed to be harmful, unlawful or undesirable. And instead of going through the process of legislation to achieve this end, the exercise will be carried



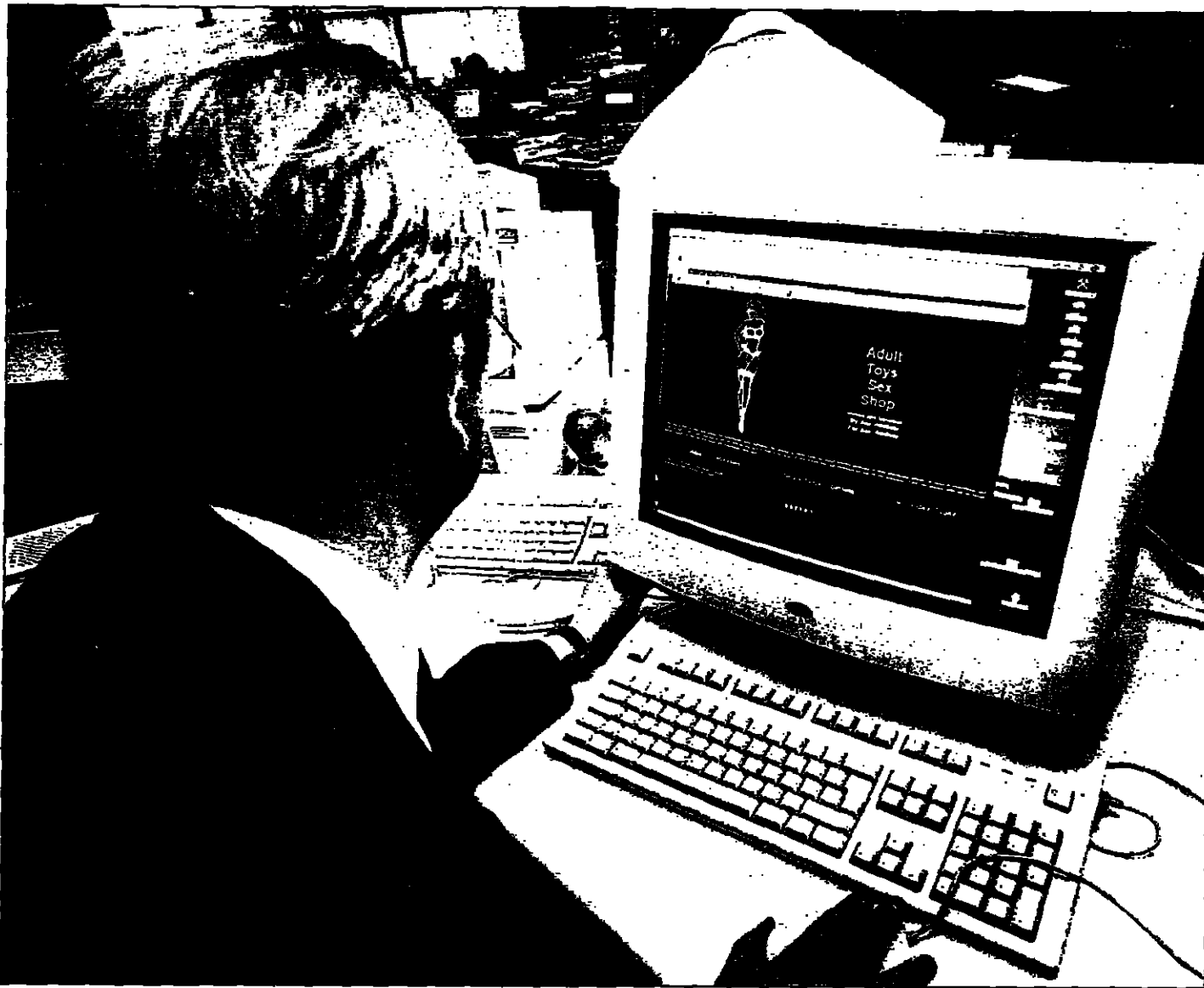
**SIMON DAVIES**  
*Once the filtering infrastructure is in place the era of mass censorship will have begun*

out on a "voluntary" basis through enforced co-operation from all areas of the communications media. It is bad news for an Internet that was supposed to be rich with content, and free from restraint. The precedent was created in 1996 when, in the wake of anguish over the spread of child porn on the Internet, the UK Conservative government backed the creation of a voluntary body called the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF). Its brief was to alert Internet Service Providers (ISPs) - the conduits for Internet traffic - about the existence of pornographic images on their sites, and to facilitate their removal. The initiative was, in essence, a reporting hotline - benign and uncontroversial. And everyone applauded loudly.

Everyone, that is, except the Internet rights groups concerned with such issues as freedom of expression. The IWF decisions, they warned, would be "arbitrary and unaccountable". Government was let off the hook on the thorny question of censorship, but under a voluntary system of censorship there would be no due process in law, and no legal redress for anyone who wanted to contest the IWF's intervention. Who determines, for example, the line between obscenity and news reporting, or the line between pornography and art?

But while Internet rights groups quite correctly ended up conditionally supporting measures against child pornography, they warned that the voluntary arrangement might soon be extended to other topics of public outrage. At that point, they signalled, legitimate free expression could face arbitrary censorship without due process or appeal. The boundary between racism and constructive dialogue is grey. So too is the line between right free speech and "incitement". The warnings had substance. Twelve months after it set up shop, the IWF now wants to tackle everything from hate speech to terrorism. And the Government intends to back it to the hilt.

The plan emerged earlier this year when the IWF published its annual results. Apparently, thanks to the IWF, 2,000 pornographic images have been removed from the Internet, and several prosecutions have resulted. And while this is - in



Attempts to stop pornography on the Internet could lead to blanket censorship

the words of one rights advocate - "like hailing out the Atlantic with a spoon", the effort attracted praise from all quarters of government.

Launching the annual report, junior trade and industry minister Barbara Roche said the IWF had been so successful she wanted its brief extended to include adult pornography, breach of copyright, racism, and "ways to protect Internet users from legal but harmful material".

The full spectrum of areas likely to be censored and controlled is set out in the "Action Plan on Promoting Safe Use of the Internet". It lists numerous targets, including abusive forms of marketing, threats to national security, bomb-making instructions, drug manufacture, terrorist activities, violence, incitement to racial hatred, racial discrimination, fraud, piracy and malicious hacking.

Other areas to be included are unauthorised communication of personal data, electronic harassment, libel, unlawful comparative advertising, trading standards violations, copyright infringements and intellectual property offences. Then there is the former minister's enigmatic expression "legal but harmful". Malcolm Ruffy of the

Campaign Against Internet Censorship in Britain has described this as "basically anything that falls through the legislative net", while Yaman Akdeniz of the UK-based Cyber-Rights & Cyber-Liberties believes it is "anything the minister deems to be offensive, controversial, subversive or pernicious".

The Foundation's proposals seem at first sight to be benign. Offensive or illegal material will be kept at bay through the use of software that can detect the extent of offensive content on websites by scanning for words, phrases and other indications. This approach would, assured the IWF, "meet parents' concerns about Internet content that is unsuitable for children".

In addition, blocking and filtering programmes which scan websites for offensive material before they arrive on your PC would ensure that only the right sort of information will reach your child's screen.

But from any other perspective, these technologies are bad news. Last year, the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC), a privacy rights watchdog in Washington DC, found that the "family-friendly" filtering technology blocked access to well over 90 per cent of "decent" material on the Internet.

EPIC loaded up the family software, then used powerful Internet searching systems to locate information about schools, charitable and political organisations, educational, artistic, and cultural institutions, using search terms including "American Red Cross", the "San Diego Zoo", and the "Smithsonian Institution", as well as such concepts as "Christianity", the "Bill of Rights" and "eating disorders". In every case, EPIC found that the family-friendly search engine prevented access to almost 90 per cent of the materials available on the Internet. In many cases, the search service denied access to 99 per cent of "decent" material. In short, EPIC concluded that the filtering mechanism prevented children from obtaining a great deal of useful and appropriate information that is currently available on the Internet.

David Banisar from EPIC says the result of using such technology would be "like reducing the Library of Congress to a village children's library". He is also concerned that the "voluntary" arrangements for censorship may fall through the freedom of expression protection of the constitution which were intended to stop federal gagging.

Despite evidence that censorship technology is unworkable, the EU Action Plan, which will establish a Europe-wide platform for ratings and filtering systems, will receive between 14 and 17 million ECUs (10 to 12 million pounds) over the next three years to install and promote the technology. Once the filtering infrastructure is in place - supported by computer manufacturers - the era of default mass censorship will have begun.

ISPs have claimed that they should be immune from liability for content - as are telecom companies - but the new arrangements will mean that, unlike phone companies, they will be responsible for monitoring content. They are, of course, entitled to refuse to do this, but the iron fist in the velvet glove is that ISPs will end up having to conform to content monitoring as a condition of their licence.

No one should oppose genuine efforts to crack down on child porn, but any attempt by government to load other censorship measures on its back should be resisted.

Simon Davies is a Visiting Fellow in the Computer Security Research Centre of the London School of Economics

## RIGHT OF REPLY

NEIL MACCORMICK



The SNP's constitutional affairs spokesman counters David Aaronovitch's attack on the Scots

THE CULTURES of even near-neighbour societies have differences of nuance and historical inheritance. But if they are different, which is better?

England and Scotland have had some differences. The history of kingly rule, and interpretations of the "law of the kingdom", differed before the union of 1707. There is even a difference revealed in the choice of whether to describe the instrument of union as the "Act of Union" or the "Treaty of Union".

Aaronovitch is an "Act of Union" person. This implies that the English Parliament by the Act admitted into itself Scottish peers and MPs at the same time that the Scottish Parliament liquidated itself. The "Treaty" alternative implies agreement between equal partners, each of which abolished itself by separately legislating to incorporate a new entity.

The forging of the imperial nation-state formally entitled "Great Britain" involved much assimilationist historiography. Classroom history taught that the blessings of civilisation came to be possessed in the non-English parts of the UK to the extent they assimilated, and abandoned ancient barbarisms. With the decline of Empire, assimilationist fallacy was reversed. But it remained a fallacy. The global evaluation of cultures or constitutional traditions is always suspect and in this case nonsense.

Aaronovitch is accordingly both right and wrong: right in reproving any Scot who is tempted into the equivalence of difference and superiority; wrong in counter-asserting a global superiority for freedom-loving England. I commend instead the attitude "a bit different - and no worse". I commend it equally to supporters and opponents of self-government in Scotland.

## The life of Dennis the menaced

FROM COLIN Blakely as a hairy, humanistic Christ striding sedulously across Galilee, through Bob Hoskins dancing cheek to cheek with his bank manager and Michael Gambon having his scaly skin greased by Nurse Joanne Whalley, Dennis Potter created some of the most memorable dramatic images in television history. Yet from much of the advance publicity for Humphrey Carpenter's biography, it would appear that Potter was a dirty old man who somehow managed to pen his award-winning plays in the gaps between visits to prostitutes.

If it is dangerous to judge a book by its cover, it is even more so to judge one by extracts. Carpenter's biography is a 600-page study which examines every aspect of Potter's life and relates it to his work. There are those who have questioned the ethics of such a project, noting that biographical speculation was anathema to Potter - who nevertheless peopled his plays with historical figures from Casanova to Jesus Christ - but Carpenter's approach proves fully justified. With the exception of Tennessee Williams, no modern playwright has mined the raw material of his life as relentlessly as Potter. Indeed, his plays are less autobiographical than auto-obsessional, as he returns to childhood trauma and adult guilt.

Potter was born to a mining family in the Forest of Dean, which served as a setting for plays as varied as *Blue Remembered Hills* and *The Singing Detective*. His early life was spent in abject poverty. Until he was 14, he not only shared a bedroom with his parents but a bed with his sister. An early beneficiary of the Butler Education Act, he gained a place at New College, Oxford, where he harped on his origins to the annoyance of other working-class students. His performances at the Union, on the stage and in *Istis* magazine made him a star. A *New Statesman* article about his life at Ox-



ford led to his first brush with the medium to which he was to devote his life, when the BBC producer (later MP) Jack Ashley asked him to contribute to a series of documentaries, *Does Class Matter?*

Class remained the young Potter's theme both in the polemical books, *The Glittering Coffer* and *The Changing Forest*, and the two Nigel Barton plays. The first, *Vote, Vote for Nigel Barton*, was based on his experiences as an unsuccessful Labour candidate in the 1964 election. Its last-minute removal from the schedules, to prevent charges of political bias, was the first taste of the controversy which was to dog his entire career.

Nevertheless, the BBC remained a loyal patron. He wrote 10 scripts for *The Wednesday Play* and *Play for Today* between 1964 and 1972. The odd flirtation with fiction and the theatre, and a longer relationship with Hollywood

notwithstanding, it was a loyalty he shared. "Television," he said, "is the biggest platform and you should kick and fight and bite your way on to it".

Potter's public image (and statements at the time of the *Blackeyes* controversy) belied his devotion to his wife Margaret, a factory typist whom he married while still at Oxford. She bore the stresses not only of his illness - the psoriatic arthropathy that crippled him for over 30 years - but also of his romantic obsessions, notably with Caroline Seaborn, the ex-wife of his friend Roger Smith, and the actress Gina Bellman.

How sexually active Potter was, given the impotence-inducing effects of his many drugs, remains a source of contention. The one certainty is that he never recovered from a childhood assault by an uncle. He himself linked his subsequent sense of pollution to the onset of psoriasis, while his associate



Bob Hoskins and Cheryl Campbell in 'Pennies from Heaven'

Rick McCallum saw his crippled hands as cups to protect his genitals. The play *Only Make-Believe* makes concrete the connection between abuse and visits to prostitutes, to which Potter confessed both to several friends, and through various author figures in his plays.

Carpenter paints a compelling portrait of a complex man with deep emotional and physical scars, whose religious faith failed to exorcise his inner demons. He shows how Potter's overwhelming sense of guilt at once drove him to write (not for nothing did he repeatedly refuse analysis) and furnished him with his lifelong subject. And yet the question remains whether Potter really is "the greatest dramatist the medium has ever produced" or simply its boldest innovator. There can be no doubt of the abiding power of works such as *The Singing Detective*, *Pennies from Heaven*, *Where Adam Stood*, and too many of his plays (perhaps because he was

ploughing a narrow furrow) rely over-much on formal experiment. The dazzling exuberance of the surface conceals the connection between the surface and the lack of depth. Nevertheless, *Pennies from Heaven*, with its pot pourri of Potterisms (the non-naturalism, popular song, and blend of high and low culture) forever changed the vocabulary of television drama. The irony is that such drama has all but disappeared. In the formulaic co-productions that dominate the schedules, there is no place for the single play and virtually none for singular writing.

So, while debate may rage as to whether Potter or Mercer, John Hopkins or Beardsdale, should be awarded the highest accolade, it is hard to imagine that any future contender will emerge - or that there will ever again be such an exhaustive study of a television playwright.

MICHAEL ARDITTI

## FRIDAY BOOK

DENNIS POTTER:  
THE AUTHORISED BIOGRAPHY  
BY HUMPHREY CARPENTER, FABER & FABER, £20

## FRIDAY POEM

THE DEATH OF THE BALL TURRET GUNNER  
BY RANDALL JARRELL

From my mother's sleep I fell into the State,  
And I hunched in its belly till my wet fur froze.  
Six miles from earth, loosed from its dream of life,  
I woke to black flak and the nightmare fighters.  
When I died they washed me out of the turret with a hose.

This is our final selection from "Poetry of the Second World War: an International anthology", edited by Desmond Graham (Pimlico, £10)

'One of the most poignant, funny, intelligent, frank and horribly addictive books you're likely to read'

Sunday Telegraph

STEPHEN FRY  
MOAB IS MY WASHPOT



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# Sir Alastair Dunnett

ALASTAIR DUNNETT, the editor of *The Scotsman* from 1956 to 1972, was passionately committed to working in Scotland; on separate occasions he declined the offer of the editorship of the Fleet Street titles *The Herald* and *The Sunday Times*.

For several decades – until Roy Thomson's death in August 1976 – Dunnett's life was inextricably bound up with Thomson and the spectacular growth of his empire.

He wrote about him:

The fear of Roy H. Thomson – Lord Thomson of Fleet and North Bridge in the City of Edinburgh [the office of *The Scotsman*] – was that he would not die at work, whether in London, Toronto, or some other base. In the latter years all that he ever complained about were the small defects that came with old age, and made him cut his working week. But in spite of concessions there was always his spirited presence, driving on, questioning, speculating, demanding, expecting.

Thus did Alastair Dunnett embark on an affectionate and perceptive tribute to a press baron, equalled only by Michael Foot's essay on Lord Beaverbrook, "Tribute to Beelzebub".

It was fitting that Roy Thomson's son should on the occasion of Dunnett's 85th birthday say that for the older generation of his Canadian family, Dunnett quite simply was Scotland. And Dunnett's description of Thomson would well have applied to Dunnett himself, "his spirited presence . . . driving on . . . questioning . . . speculating . . . demanding . . . expecting".

Dunnett was born in Kilmakolm, Dumfriesshire in 1913. His father was an invalid. In 1901, at an international football match between Scotland and England at Ibrox Park, Glasgow, a wooden stand had collapsed, throwing layers of men forward so that those in the lower ranks were crushed and killed. David Sinclair Dunnett, being tall, had his head and shoulders clear, but could not breathe.

His future brother-in-law, Danny Mowat, was thrown clear, and ran up and down to look for David, who shouted "Danny" with his last gasp. Mowat seized him by the collar, and dragged him out. David Dunnett, suffering from crushing of the heart valves, and took this impairment with him through a long life.

Albeit suffering frequent physical chastisement as a result of his father's ill-humour – caused by pain – Dunnett developed a powerful sympathy for invalids, and those not able to fend for themselves.

As a pillar for 40 years of the Establishment in Glasgow and Edinburgh, Dunnett's instincts, that we Scots are indeed our Brother's Keeper, were exceedingly influential in explaining why Scotland and the Scots were Mrs Thatcher's despair. Critical of the Labour Party and many of its prominent beliefs, Dunnett nonetheless helped create an ethos where prosperous Scots in their hundreds of thousands would discontinue voting Tory.

Dunnett's mother's father, Alexander MacTavish, after whom he was called, was a master mariner

from Loch Fyne. For most of his life, MacTavish was captain of one of Clyde Trustees' sledge boats, carrying cargoes of effluent down the river to be dumped in the open sea. His maternal grandmother, Christine MacTavish, came from a family of fish-curers, who also ran cargo smacks plying between the parts of the West Coast and the Far Outer Isles.

Not only did Alastair Dunnett take a special interest from the editorial chair in the developing problems of the fishing industry, but as a member of the Scottish Tourist Board (1956-69), he played a part in the conscious drive to introduce young people to the delights and challenges of the rugged areas of the West Coast.

Dunnett's formal education ended at 15. His otherwise wretched schooldays at Overtown Public School – actually a slum infant school but mistaken, as Dunnett chuckled, by some Englishman later in life for private education – and

and his friend Seamus Adam were founding a magazine for boys called *The Claymore*, he arranged for the bank to help them by buying advertising space. Yet Dunnett's experience in the bank was to stand him in good stead when he became a mogul of Thomson Oil.

Dunnett was the first person I remember warning me that there would be real trouble in the Six Counties. In his excellent autobiography, *Among Friends* (1984), Dunnett recalls how in Galway he had come across a lovely young group of people who were running a Gaelic Theatre. They had wanted to take one or two plays into the Six Counties but had been refused by the repressive regime.

He tried to warn Erskine of the seething hostility, as he thought he might be a reconciling influence. Dunnett's *Scotsman* was one of the very few, if not the only quality paper in Britain, before 1968, to address itself to the incipient horrors of Northern Ireland.

A quintessential Celt, Dunnett's attitude to the English is encapsulated in a passage from his autobiography:

I was there at the game against England which looked like ending in a draw until Alex Cheynes of Aberdeen playing on the wing, scored a goal, direct from a corner-kick. George Allison, then the self-important boss of Arsenal Football Club who was doing the radio commentary in his nasal long-winded fashion, had announced that the game was virtually over and was talking it out when his attention was drawn to the fact that the ball was in the English net. Undismayed, this Barnum of the early large-scale football days changed lay and proceeded, "While I've been speaking it appears that a goal has been scored by Scotland at the other end of the field . . ."

Editing *The Claymore*, later to be commemorated by Dunnett in the oil-field of that name, got him the position of printer, producer and editor of the Aberdeen edition of the Glasgow daily newspaper *The Bulletin*, bought by my grandmother Dame Mary Marjoribanks for the sole purpose of reading the "Adventures of (The Bear) Scottykins". It was a family newspaper, to which Dunnett introduced picture spreads that told their own story.

In 1937, Dunnett joined the *Daily Record*, by invitation of Clem Livingstone, as Art Editor. Dunnett recalled:

Up to that point the pictures had been mere insertions. Apart from the illustrations to news stories, the centre spread of pictures, which at that time was a feature of the "popular" type of newspaper, tended to have the least of fashion pictures. "Latest London fashion – a tasteful toque with semi-well seen at military show in . . ." or "A merry group at last night's Draper's Ball in the Ca' d'oro . . ." or worse still, "The wind played tricks with the bride's veil at the pretty wedding in St Mary's Church yesterday . . ."

No theme ran through these snapshots. They served, on that, some purpose as a kind of national family album. I had always felt that pictures positively added to the news and indeed that the right pictures could eliminate the need for a news story. It wasn't long before I was telling my team of photographers that our job was to make the reporters obsolete. The right picture and the right caption – and I would do the writing of



Dunnett in his office at *The Scotsman* where he was editor from 1956 to 1972

the caption – should be able to do away with some of the news stories for which the photographer had accompanied a reporter, merely to illustrate what the reporter thought was a visual impression, adding some percentage to his story.

For 10 years after the Second World War Dunnett edited *The Record*, which he described to the Fleet Street pundits as "a working-class *News Chronicle*", and which he left six weeks after it had been acquired by Cecil King, whom Dunnett found a grim and menacing figure, who had driven the *Daily Mirror* to "tarty success" over a number of years.

Before leaving the *Record* in 1940, and returning as Editor in 1946, Dunnett was Chief Press Officer to

Tom Johnston, Regional Commissioner for Civil Defence and then Secretary of State for Scotland. Sir Horace Hamilton, the considerable war-time Permanent Secretary at the Scottish Office, who had known all the notable politicians and public men in Government in his distinguished career, told Dunnett that the only person he had ever known who could match Tom Johnston at getting to the heart of a situation was David Lloyd-George.

Johnston and his inner-team, among whom Dunnett was prominent, had a post-war vision of Scotland, which would create hydro power to feed electricity into the paraffin-lit homes of the North and the West. They dreamed up a Scot-

tish Tourist Board, and had the brainwave of setting up the Scots Ancestry Research Council, which in practical terms would find a ranny or two for Americans, Canadians, Australians and other likely dollar-carrying visitors. Ever inventive, they got the money for the project by cajoling my constituent the late Earl of Rosebery to hand over for the public good his race winnings when his horse Blue Peter won the Derby, in 1939.

Dunnett's self-confessed failure reveals a lot about Dunnett, as do his perceptive criticisms of British institutions, such as the House of Commons:

It was a study to walk through the corridors with one's lobby correspondent

and hear him greet eminent statesmen and Prime Ministers on all sides with "How's it going, Ted?" or "Busy questions today, Harold?" and other amiable greetings. So it became clear to me that the parliamentary teams looked on themselves as a permanent element at Westminster. Prime Ministers and senior Secretaries of State came and went, but the recorders of the action were always there.

So I proposed a scheme by which top-grade reporters and first-class writers, preferably younger than the average, would go on a rota to cover these parliamentary jobs for about three years at a time, and the whole team would be switched round and not become cosy dug in. The scheme was greeted with horror naturally by the Westminster team, but also, to my great surprise, by most of the senior team in Edinburgh at our head office.

The general belief was that you needed to spend 20 years at Westminster before you began to understand what it was all about. I knew this was daft and that a good reporter could get the hang of it in six months . . . Looking back I am sorry that the move didn't come off. It would have freshened up parliamentary reporting considerably and done the House of Commons, as well as my paper, a great deal of good.

In 1956 I wrote an article following my participation in the first NUS visit to Russia, concerning my 17th-century ancestor and namesake, Sir Walter Scott's "Bluidy Muscovite". Roy Thomson saw it, found it tickled his fancy and summoned me to the presence, with a view to offering me employment. Perplexed that I was adamant about remaining at Moray House Teachers' Training College, Thomson revealed how he, Dunnett and Jim Coltart, had embarked on a great European venture, later to extend from newspaper ownership to television and oil.

Dunnett gave a start to many talented and successful young journalists, and it was he who launched his supremely talented artist-wife, Dorothy, on her authorship. The great American publisher, Lois Dwight Cole, of Dutton's, to whom Alastair introduced Dorothy, used to say in old age, "I always thought that Margaret Mitchell – author of *Gone with the Wind* – was my greatest friend, but Dorothy Dunnett gave me more real pleasure."

To provide material for Dorothy's books, she and Alastair would go together to Italy and France, Yugoslavia and North Africa, Orkney and Shetland for purposeful holidays to get material. The relationship is encapsulated by a woman friend of the Dunnetts, who said to them as they were drinking at a small table together, "You two are amazing. I would never guess you are married. There you were sitting and talking and laughing as if you were strangers who wanted to get to know each other." It was a wonderful marriage.

TAM DALYELL

Alastair MacTavish Dunnett, journalist, born Kilmakolm, Dumfriesshire 26 December 1913; Chief Press Officer, Secretary of State for Scotland 1940-46; Editor, *Daily Record* 1946-55; Editor, *The Scotsman* 1956-72; K2 1993; married 1946 Dorothy Halliday (two sons); died Edinburgh 2 September 1998.

## Jackie Blanchflower

JACKIE BLANCHFLOWER was not quite 25 and approaching his footballing prime. Already he had been showered with bouquets as one of Manchester United's vibrantly successful Busby Babes and was firmly established as a Northern Ireland international. With the Red Devils seemingly poised for limitless conquests, the future beckoned alluringly for the versatile younger brother of Danny, the famous captain of Tottenham Hotspur.

But tragedy intervened when United's plane crashed at Munich on the way home from a European tie in Belgium in February 1958. Eight players and 15 other passengers lost their lives; Blanchflower lost his livelihood and, for many years, his peace of mind.

After the accident on the snowy German runway he received the last rites, but he survived. However the hitherto vigorous young athlete was a physical wreck – he suffered a fractured pelvis, a complete set of broken arms and legs, shattered ribs and severe kidney damage – and even when the bodily devastation began gradually to be repaired, the mental scars remained vivid.

For three traumatic years he was consumed with bitterness, railing against his reversal of fortune and did precisely nothing. Even after that, as he tried to reshape his future outside football, there were more blows in store and only much later in life did the eloquent Irishman regain contentment, earning renown as an entertaining raconteur and drollly hilarious after-dinner speaker.

Jackie Blanchflower had followed Danny over the Irish Sea in 1949, leaving his native Belfast as a precociously talented 16-year-old to sign on at Old Trafford. Skilful, intelligent and industrious, though a little short of pace, he made rapid

strides through United's junior teams and made his senior debut at right-half in 1951. But it was as an inside-forward that he attained a regular place in 1953/54, the season in which he won his first full international cap.

Emerging as both a creator and scorer of goals, he netted 24 times over two campaigns and was rewarded with a Championship medal in 1955/56. However, following an accomplished defensive stint for his country and with increasingly brisk competition for inside-forward berths – the likes of Dennis Viollet, Liam Whelan, John Doherty and the exciting young Bobby Charlton were

goals which stopped United becoming the first club this century to complete the League and FA Cup double. Come the ill-fated expedition to Belgrade, Jones was back in the side and Blanchflower travelled merely as a reserve, being declared fit to do so only at the last moment. Clearly, though, there was no doubt that he remained an integral part of Matt Busby's ambitious long-term plans.

At first, after Munich, there were hopes that he would recover well enough to resume his career and he remained on United's books until June 1959. But the injuries proved insuperable and the devastated Ul-

sterman faced a grim outlook.

Understandably enough he felt the world was against him as a succession of occupations, all in the Manchester area, brought frustration. He ran a sweetshop – and a supermarket opened around the corner, he did a stint with a bookmaker and horse-racing was so hard hit by cruel winter weather that he lost the job; he took on a pub – and two weeks later the breathalyser was introduced; then he became a printer only to be made redundant in 1976.

After that he studied to become an accountant but that brought no change of luck as positions as finance officer for a youth association

John Blanchflower, footballer, born Belfast 7 March 1933; played for Manchester United 1949-58; capped 12 times by Northern Ireland 1954-58; married (one son, two daughters); died Manchester 2 September 1998.



Blanchflower playing for Northern Ireland against England in 1954

Press Association

*'I had always felt that pictures positively added to the news and indeed that the right pictures could eliminate the need for a news story'*

Hillhead School, were redeemed by two superb teachers.

One was John Lapsley, maths teacher of motivating style, whose nephew, Graeme Lapsley, was the powerful Chief Executive of the Orkney County Council, when Dunnett went to Orkney in the early 1970s, to talk about oil, and give birth to what became the huge Flotta terminal.

The other teacher was George Menary, who opened the doors of English Literature to Dunnett. Menary – whose PhD was a treatise on *Forbes of Culloden* – later became a notoriously angular and difficult HM Inspector of Schools, but stirred in Dunnett a great desire to write and become a journalist.

However, family financial necessity dictated that Dunnett join the Commercial Bank of Scotland. He found life and colleagues un congenial, but won the Institute of Bankers' Annual Essay Competition on the subject of the "Art of Investment", which brought him to the attention of his general manager, John M. Erskine, who three decades later, as Lord Erskine of Berrick, was the last Governor of Northern Ireland.

Timing is everything in life, and when Erskine learned that Dunnett,

*'Life has been full of ups and downs. I loved it at United. From this distance, even going through the accident was worth it for those years at Old Trafford'*

all in contention – Blanchflower was converted into a centre-half during 1956/57.

Thereafter he vied for the No 5 shirt with Mark Jones, an immensely tough stopper in the traditional mould who contrasted nicely with the more subtle Irishman. In this new role Blanchflower played in the 1957 FA Cup Final against Aston Villa, but spent most of the match as an emergency goalkeeper after regular custodian Ray Wood was injured, substitutes not being allowed in those days.

As a magnificent all-round sportsman, he surprised no one by excelling between the Wembley posts but was unable to prevent the two

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## Fred Daw

FRED DAW did more than anyone else to bring to his adopted home of Bath its well-earned sobriquet, "the floral city".

As Bath's parks director from 1952 until 1973, he put flowers on the pavements, built ornamental gardens on bomb sites, and led the city to the finals of the Britain in Bloom contest every year that the competition was held while he was parks director, celebrating four outright victories.

Daw was born on the Sandringham Estate in Norfolk, where his father was flock shepherd and butcher to no fewer than five monarchs, including George V. In old age, he relished his memories of those times: "I used to help my father kill and dress 21 Southdown sheep for the royal table each week. I also remember just before Christmas the King would give beef to all the estate workers and the poorer you were, the larger the piece of beef you got."

Leaving school at 14, Daw worked as a pony boy. "I started by leading the grass-cutting ponies on the golf course, as there were no motor mowers in those days," he said during an interview last year.

A scholarship took him to the John Innes Horticultural College, from where he took a job as gardening foreman at Himeley House, home of the Earl of Dudley, in Worcester. It was there he met his wife of almost 60 years, Cath. He spent the war as a food production officer and horticultural adviser in Oldbury.

A position as parks superintendent in Slough eventually led to the plum position of Parks Director in Bath in

1952, where Daw had the aftermath of the war years and his predecessor's long illness to contend with. He immediately landed in a storm when he lavishly decorated the city with blooms: "We put some in Abbey Church Yard, outside the Pump Room, for the Bath Festival. But there was such an outcry that I had to get my staff out at three in the morning to take all the flowers back to the nursery."

how, finding his orchard suffering badly from the attention of boys "scrumping" his apples, he had once set a trap at the foot of the 20ft wall they had to scale. He buried a large tank, filled it with a noxious mixture of water and tractor sump oil, and carefully covered it over. From his vantage point behind the runner beans, Daw watched and waited with the avid attention of a big game hunter. When the scavengers returned, their

ment and the trimming of budgets were purportedly the cause of his premature retirement in 1973, but failed to change the colour of Daw's green fingers. He bought a parcel of land to the south-east of the city and invited his old friend Percy Thrower to open the Fred Daw Garden Centre. There he engaged in numerous minor skirmishes with local residents and the council, who nipped several planning applications in the bud as Daw tried to build golf courses and car parks for his customers.

Fred Daw became a familiar figure at shows and competitions across the country and was a judge for Britain in Bloom on several occasions. In 1968 he was created an associate of honour of the Royal Horticultural Society.

At home, in a little village to the east of Bath, Fred Daw tended his own garden with just as much devotion as he had the city's floral blooms. His views on pest control were forthright and uncompromising: "In all the work I have undertaken, from Sandringham to Bath, I have never used insecticides. I was taught the organic method of pest control and have promoted it all my life. If everyone grew their produce organically, all the fruit and vegetables would be much safer to eat."

TIM BULLAMORE

Frederic Robert Daw, horticulturist: born West Newton, Sandringham 10 February 1913; Parks Director, City of Bath 1952-73; married 1938 (one son, one daughter); died Bath 28 August 1998.

*Daw's strategy in Bath, he said, was to adopt the same pastel colours schemes which Queen Mary had planned at Sandringham*

After this baptism of fire, Daw set about transforming the city. In 1953, when Bath won a silver medal at the Royal Horticultural Show, *The Times* noted "the glorious bank of cyclamens from the City of Bath Parks Department, staged so that the colours blend imperceptibly from one to another." The top award in the first Britain in Bloom contest followed in 1964. Daw's strategy in Bath, he said, was to adopt the same pastel colour schemes which Queen Mary had planned at Sandringham.

He would regale those who would listen with many tales of his life outdoors and particularly enjoyed recounting

jump from the wall unfortunately cleared the concealed tank. Catching sight of their pursuer they beat a hasty retreat, missing the trap for a second time. In hot pursuit, Daw grabbed the fast-disappearing foot of one of the offenders. Down fell the lad onto firm soil and down fell Daw into his own cocktail of water and oil.

Laying playing fields, landscaping cemeteries and transforming Bath's botanical gardens into a renowned centre of excellence were all fitted into the regular cycle of tending potting beds and flower boxes which to this day Daw's successors maintain.

The reorganisation of local govern-

## HISTORICAL NOTES

RICHARD OVERY

# Victory for the Soviet people, not for Stalin

FOR YEARS after the end of the Second World War Victory Day was honoured every 9 May in the Soviet Union. The Soviet victory was slowly transformed into one of the two chief founding myths of the Communist regime, Lenin's historic triumph in 1917, Stalin's in 1945. Even when Stalin was dead and then denounced the myth survived. The victory of 1945 became the victory of the progressive Communist peoples over fascism and imperialism. Schoolchildren were for years taught that "the Soviet nation saved mankind from annihilation and enslavement". Thanks to Soviet efforts, ran the textbook, the USSR "preserved world civilisation".

Glasnost effectively destroyed the myth. The Soviet public became hungry for a new version of the war, one that matched the fading recollections of veterans. In 1988 and 1989 two commissions began work on Soviet war losses to set the record before the public. Since that date revelations have flooded out of the Soviet archives. Soviet armed forces suffered unbelievable levels of loss - 8.6 million dead, over 18 million casualties. Hundreds of thousands were condemned to death, sent to penal units and labour camps. Millions of Soviet POWs in German hands were imprisoned and humiliated when they returned to the country they had tried to save. The hideous reality of the Stalinist wartime terror has exposed more vividly than anything else the shallowness of the Soviet claim to have saved civilisation.

And yet, if the Stalinist system was so corrupt and vindictive, and so prodigal with the lives of its own people, how could it possibly have won the war against Hitler's Germany, which possessed in 1941 the most effective battlefield forces in the world and which had seized the economic resources of almost an entire continent. The obvious answer is that the USSR during the war was not so corrupt and vicious it could not mobilise popular enthusiasm for a crusade against Hitlerism. This is an uncomfortable answer, giving Stalin and the Party too much credit in an age of anguished recrimination against Russia's former masters.

There are explanations which give victory back to the former Soviet people without giving it to Stalin. There is the emphasis on the reform of the Soviet armed forces in the face of German attack, an exhaustive overhaul of operational art and



Stalin gave the military their head

tactical performance that few armed forces could have contemplated in the midst of conflict, and in such short order. The military triumphs over German forces would have been impossible without these reforms, and they owed little to Stalin or the Party save that they permitted them to take place.

There is another account that takes as its starting point the Soviet people themselves, without whose willingness to accept terrible privation and endless suffering victory would have eluded Stalin. No one takes seriously the claim that all Soviet citizens worked and fought with a gun to their head, but is popular enthusiasm a sufficient explanation for changing fortunes on the Eastern Front?

Stalin and the Communist system refuse to be entirely dislodged from post-Soviet accounts of Soviet victory. Stalin gave the military their head but he remained Commander-in-Chief; the Communist Party relaxed the taut leash which held the population before 1941, but it still dominated the Soviet state. Soviet victory owed something to all the elements of the Soviet system, dictator and people, Party and army.

It is surely unthinkable that anyone else could have made Russia fight the way she did, and at such a terrible price. Even now, there are few Russians who think the defeat of Hitler's Germany was a cause not worth fighting. What they resent is the shallow exploitation of that military triumph for years afterwards to perpetuate a system whose very faults made the price of victory so high in the first place.

Richard Overy is the author of 'Russia's War' (Penguin, £20)

## Hardliners in Kremlin warn of civil war

WITH PRESIDENT Mikhail Gorbachev on holiday by the Black Sea, Kremlin conservatives went on the offensive at the weekend, openly demanding action to quell the nationalist unrest sweeping the fringe republics of the Soviet Union. A string of statements by party hardliners included a warning that the Armenians and Azeris in Nagorno Karabakh were on the brink of civil war and that troops there have lost control.

But, even as they spoke, 100,000 people were demonstrating in the Azeri capital of Baku for more autonomy from Moscow; almost as many people rallied in four Ukrainian cities against a draft election law; Russian workers were striking in Moldova against the new language law; and Estonian party activists met to discuss how to make the local party more independent of Moscow.

The Soviet Union is more on edge than at any time since Mr Gorbachev came to power in 1985. There is even a stirring of discontent in the vast Ukraine, with a population of 50 million, Mr Gorbachev's ultimate nightmare. It is the centre of Soviet heavy industry and the nation's main grain-growing area. Moscow is looking anxiously to 17 September, the 50th anniversary of the "liberation" of the western Ukraine from Poland.

The hardline attacks were led by the former Politburo ideologue Yegor Ligachev, who was sidelined to take responsibility for agriculture last year. He appeared on national television calling for measures to stop the "erosion of socialism", though he said these should be "political" and not "repressive". He said the Kremlin had a

THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE  
4 SEPTEMBER 1989

*While the President is away, Communist hardliners demand action to quell nationalism, reports Helen Womack from Moscow*

"constitutional duty" to tighten the reins on nationalist unrest. "Nationalists and separatists of various hues are actively working to disunite and weaken the leadership," he said. His prescription was tighter party discipline and better communication between party and public.

To dampen speculation that the conservatives might be acting without Mr Gorbachev's assent, Mr Ligachev stressed that the whole Politburo had agreed the 26 August warning from the Central Committee to the Baltic states that they were heading towards "the abyss".

As if to underline that Mr Gorbachev was still in charge, Tass yesterday carried the full text of a message from him to the Non-Aligned summit in Belgrade. In Mr Gorbachev's absence, however, the party daily *Pravda* has shifted sharply to the right; for 10 days running, it has campaigned against the growing demands for autonomy - and sometimes outright independence - in several of the non-Russia republics.

The warning over Nagorno Karabakh came from Arkady

Volsky, the chairman of a Kremlin committee set up to administer the region, whose Armenian majority want to secede from Azerbaijan. The army daily *Red Star* yesterday quoted him as saying the region was a "powderkeg" which was ready to blow up and that the two communities were "on the brink of civil war". In the same issue, an army colonel stationed in Nagorno Karabakh said his troops had practically no power to control the huge violent protests which have rent Armenia and Azerbaijan.

At the weekend rally in Baku, there were passionate appeals for a general strike from today to back demands for local autonomy and for firmer Azeri control over Nagorno Karabakh.

Among those who joined Mr Ligachev in condemning such demands was the former KGB chief Viktor Chebrikov. He urged that unspecified measures be taken to "strengthen law enforcement bodies and enhance their prestige". Using rhetoric reminiscent of the Brezhnev era, he said: "Murderers, violators and bandits should not go unpunished, no matter what flags they raise and in what brightly coloured national costumes they are clad."

It is this tone which has so disturbed the three Baltic states, whose popular front movements have appealed to the United Nations for protection. At the weekend, the Communist Party in Estonia reiterated its policy of accelerating perestroika and sacked two party officials regarded as conservatives.

From the front page of 'The Independent', Monday 4 September 1989

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### DEATHS

MILLER: Robert Henry William (Bob), passed away suddenly, after a short illness, on Wednesday 19 August 1998. Will be sadly missed by wife Joan, son Michael and daughter Susan. Funeral service at Southend Crematorium 3pm on Tuesday 8 September. Donations to Little Haven or Fairhaven Hospice. All enquiries to A.W. Alden, 196 High Road, South Benfleet, Essex SS168 7SS75.

#### LECTURES

National Gallery: Peter Sutton, "Pieter de Hooch", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Pat Earnshaw, "19th and 20th-century Machine-made Laces", 2pm.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements are charged at £10 a line (VAT extra).

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Miss Joan Aiken, children's writer, 74; Professor Anthony Atkinson, Warden, Nuffield College, Oxford, 54; Sir Hubert Bennett, architect, 88; Sir John Charnley, technological consultant, 76; Air Marshal Sir John Cheshire, former UK Military Representative, HQ NATO, 56; Sir Michael Day, former chairman, Commission for Racial Equality, 66; Mr Peter Drew, former chairman, Taylor Woodrow, 71; Mrs Ann Dummett, former director, Runnymede Trust, 68; Mr Mike Gapes MP, 46; Miss Mitzi Gaynor, actress and dancer, 68; Lord Howell, former government minister, 75; Sir Nicholas Jackson, organist, harpsichordist and composer, 64; Mr Bill Kenwright, theatrical impresario, 53; Mr Dinsdale Landen, actor, 66; Air Chief Marshal Sir David Lee, 86; Sir William Mare-Jones, former High Court judge, 83; Mr Ian Rank-Broadley, sculptor, 46; Lord Sandhurst, wartime RAF bomber commander, 78; Mr Tom Watson, golfer, 49.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Robert Railton, publisher and founder of Sunday

Schools, 1736; François-René, Vicomte de Chateaubriand, writer and politician, 1768; Anton Bruckner, composer and organist, 1824; Dadabhai Naoroji, first Asian member of parliament, 1825; Albert Joseph Moore, decorative painter, 1841; Darius Milhaud, composer, 1892; Antonin Artaud, playwright and director, 1896; Mary Renault (Mary Challen), novelist, 1905; Richard Nathaniel Wright, novelist and essayist, 1908.

Deaths: Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, favourite of Queen Elizabeth I, 1588; Charles Townshend, chancellor of the exchequer, 1767; James Wyatt, architect, 1813; Celestin-François Nanteuil, painter and engraver, 1873; Edward Hagerup Grieg, composer, 1907; Walford Graham Robertson, playwright and artist, 1948; Robert Schuman, French statesman, 1988; Albert Schweitzer, organist, doctor and missionary, 1965.

On this day: the Battle of Montaperti was fought between the Guelphs and Ghibellines, 1260; in France, Emperor Napoleon III was deposed, and the Third Republic proclaimed, 1870; the Apache chief Geronimo surrendered to the US army, 1886; the world's first rally of

Boy Scouts was held at the Crystal Palace, near London, 1909; the Germans retreated to the Siegfried Line, 1918; Largo Caballero formed a Socialist government in Spain, 1936; the British liner *Athenia* sank after being torpedoed by a German U-boat the previous day, with the loss of 93 lives, 1939; Antwerp was liberated by the Allies, 1944; Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands abdicated in favour of her daughter, Juliana, 1948; the Forth Road bridge was opened by the Queen, 1964; in Rio de Janeiro, the US ambassador to Brazil was kidnapped by terrorists, 1969.

Today is the Feast Day of St Boniface, Pope, St Ida of Herzfeld, Saints Marcellus and Valerian, St Marinus of San Marino, St Rosalia, St Rose of Viterbo and St Ullan of Ardrhaccon.

#### RECEPTIONS

British Safety Council: Sir Neville Purvis, Director General of the British Safety Council, hosted a reception yesterday evening at the Armourer's Hall, London EC2, for the Five Star Health and Safety Management System Audit awards. Twenty-five companies were honoured.

#### SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 7.26pm. United Synagogues: 0181-343 5888. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2262. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1653. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-340 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-258 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1026.

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of York presents the prizes at the 1998 Stowe Futur competition at Stowe School, Buckinghamshire.

#### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's Regiment mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

FROM THE Latin *ex*, out of, and pressure, to press, express ought to mean to form by pressing out - and indeed that was its original meaning. So how did the hastiness now associated with the word arrive?

The answer is: by train. From its original meaning, express was already being used by Chaucer to refer to

## WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON  
express, *v*, *n*, or *adj*.

the explicit representation of a fact or concept. One could express oneself in words as well as by pressing out a physical image. In either case, there was an

implication of precision and deliberateness.

So when, in the mid-19th century, a word was sought for a train scheduled to go from A to B without calling at intervening stations, they called it an *express* train. Direct and non-stop, it was also, not unnaturally, fast, which soon became the primary meaning.

# The best days of your life, the worst of mine

Summer's over, the new term is about to begin. What are the nameless terrors lurking in the pit of your stomach, and why don't your children seem to share them?

There is something about the first day at school which demands spanking new shoes

BY SOPHIE RADICE

**W**hy do I do it? I, who always laugh at the herd-like instincts of the French blocking the roads of the nation as they leave and return from their holidays on exactly the same day. And yet, here we all are, once again in Brent Cross shopping centre on the run-up to the start of a new school year, grimly going from shoe shop to shoe shop while children weep and whine and mothers either shriek or go all glassy-eyed and retreat to that place in their head where mothers who don't shout go.

We could all have done this a couple of weeks ago, or indeed waited until next weekend or the weekend after that, but there is something about the first day of the new school term which demands absolutely spanking new shoes. Of course, their feet will have grown over the holidays, and, of course, most of us feel guilty about their having worn £1.99 jellies for the whole of the summer ("little feet are precious and growing bones must be supported" said a sign in one shoe-shop), but there is more to it than that.

I remember the ritual of going to buy shoes at John Lewis (who now give out bleepers at this pre-school rush so that parents can "shop at their leisure" to pass the two-hour wait) and my feelings of fresh optimism and excitement being bound up in walking into my playground and lining up for the first time in ages with fine new shoes. Much of that first day would be spent spitting and rubbing the shoes in an attempt to keep them nice and shiny.

I suspect all the mothers clutching alarmingly high-number tickets in Russell and Bromley's Kid store while a Disney film blares out from strategically placed television screens have similar memories. Like our own mothers at the beginning of the school year, we all want to do absolutely the right thing by our child, as if making them feel smart and confident for the first day will set the tone for the whole school year.

At this shoe store they have not only trainers with light-up heels and laces but also nice, round-toed, medically approved leather ones. Both are horribly expensive, and I have to admit that when I have been skint at other times of the year I have just got the right size from Safeways and pinched the front bit to make sure there is enough room when I put them on my kids' feet. I have even put second-hand sandals on to my children's feet, and sometimes they only wear wellies for weeks on end.

And guess what? They have been fine: they have not developed bunions, pigeon toes, flat feet or strange postures. If I told this to the specially trained fitting assistants who spend their lives on their knees measuring the length and width of children's feet and feeling and prodding for a perfect fit, I am afraid I would be asked to leave. In fact, it wouldn't be the first time. Once my (then two-year-old) daughter was so dismayed at not being able to get some glittery red Doc Martens in her size, that she slapped the shop assistant who told her the bad news. They asked me to come back when she was in "better spirits" and her brother and I slunk away embarrassed, with her screaming abuse over my shoulder.

The woman sitting next to me has daughter problems too. Her prematurely teenage 10-year-old is sneering at her mother's suggestions for school shoes, refusing to try on a pair of lace-ups that they have waited an hour for. The mother gets so desperate at the thought of going to another shop and waiting for another length of time that she caves in.

"Go on, choose anything you want so long as it's black. You know your school insists on black." Sulkily the girl finds a pair with as much of a heel as you are ever going to find in a children's



shoe shop and the assistant comes out of the store room to tell them that they don't have any in her size. "You could order them, madam," the young assistant offers helpfully. "But we need them now. She starts school on Wednesday, you see." The mother is nearly in tears, and as they leave her daughter appears to be smirking.

All around are similar scenes. Anyone who has only had experience of grown-up shoe shopping would be absolutely appalled at the chaos and publicly displayed emotions here. Children run about whacking each other while others just loiter around holding shoes that they have taken off the shelves. Mothers do not seem to have any sense of camaraderie, but view each other as annoying hindrances to getting the shoes that they want. Add to this a team of overtired and increasingly surly assistants (and who can blame them, when you look at their customers?) and you get the picture.

When it is finally our turn, I have already promised my two all sorts of delicious bribes so they will desist from hurting each other while we are in the shop. They have both decided on their top four choices of shoe so that we will have something to fall back on if the shop does not have what they want.

Our nice young assistant admits that the preschool days are "hell on earth" and that he feels like offering incentives for mothers to come back in a couple of days' time.

My children do not humiliate me this time. They both walk up and down when they are told to, so that the assistant can ask how they feel. Amazingly enough, it takes only 20 minutes for them both to be happily fitted into shoes that they are both so thrilled by that they sleep with them on their pillows.

Tomorrow - haircuts!

**I**t's like a scene from Vermeer or Pieter de Hooch: Interior with Seamstress, School Uniform and Cash's Name Tapes. In the middle of the kitchen sits the children's nanny, laboriously sewing little white tags on to a bewildering succession of garments.

"Games skirt - black," she recites, like a drill sergeant checking off recruits. "Shorts - black cycling. Tights - black footless (footless?). Jogging trousers - black with white stripe. Leopard - black. Kilt - grey. Lab Coat..." I assume she is winding me up (what are they trying to turn my gorgeous daughter into? A gym-haunting, Amazonian huffin with a penchant for Scottish dancing?). But no, they're all genuine school requirements; all part of the severe, monochrome wardrobe in which my daughter Sophie will soon be festooned, emblazoned and be-knickered as she starts her first term at the Big School.

How bad can it be? The school is not a boarding school. Sophie will not be lost to her loving family, communicating only in tear-stained letters written between Practical Torture class and double-period Pagan Rituals. She will be home every evening. The school isn't far; she can practically walk there. Many of her friends from Junior School will be starting alongside her. She has met the new class teacher, who is "terribly nice". Mr Blunkett's proposed new strictures about enforced homework and mandatory bedtime will not affect the school

It all comes down to breaktime on the first day. You've got about 30 seconds to make an impression.

BY JOHN WALSH

since it is private. Everything will be fine. So why am I so nervous about this small step along the highway of my daughter's education?

It's partly because she is. As she circles the pile of name-tagged uniform, marvelling at its comprehensiveness ("What's the white apron for, Sophie?" I ask. "Cookery? Dusting?" She fixes me with a stern eye. "Carpentry, Dad," she says. "Just carpentry", two kinds of alarm are gradually stealing over her.

First, the fear that she won't do well. "I'm afraid of messing up the exams. I don't want to be put in with the thickies," she says. As if. And there's the other fear, equally irrational, that she won't have any friends, that she'll be ignored, disliked, picked on, dissed, found wanting or made to feel unpopular in one of the thousand ways 11-year-old girls can suffer for not being exactly like their peers.

It all comes down to that moment at break-time on the first day, when you first walk out into the playground. It supposedly decides who will be your friends and who your enemies; who will be the leaders and who the led; who will be

style dictator and who style victim for the next few years, if not the rest of your life. "But sweetheart," I said. "You'll all be wearing school uniform. You won't be taking part in some trendiness contest. Nobody will be in pedal pushers or cargo pants or All Saints combat tops, or belly chains or hair extensions or blue-sparkly nail varnish or..."

"Daddy," she said. "That isn't the point. Everyone will be looking to see who seems nice, who laughs too much, who looks cool, who looks as if they might be friendly, and who looks a complete dork. You've got about 30 seconds to make an impression."

Me too. If ever there was a time when parents felt themselves under the scrutiny of the Big School down the road, it's now. Junior School is a breeze for parents - because the scholars are so young, parents and teachers can pretend to agree that tiny delinquents are merely incorrigible and yelling neurotics. Merely highly strung. But once they're past 10, and are at least in the gravitational pull of puberty and moral choice, there's no hiding place. Your little angel is on a downhill race to being

grown up, and will be either a good or bad advertisement for how you've brought them up.

So as the first term approaches, the parents read the school's printed material far more nervously than the children at whom it is aimed. "Read the School Rules and the Uniform List," snarls a communication from the Head to all new pupils. "You have to obey them." Crikey. I sit and read the "Parents' Practical Guide to Homework" as if it's the Ten Commandments. I peruse the "Dealing with Asthma" letter as if it were a newly discovered missive from Shakespeare to the Dark Lady. I nod submissively as I'm told precisely where to find this item of clothing, and precisely how to pay for it. (And take your hands out of your pockets, you grubby little man.)

Smarting beneath the lash of the music department's scorn ("Please do not apply for piano lessons if you do not have, or are not prepared to obtain, a piano"), I watch my daughter talking to her mother about hem lengths. She has tried on the new school skirt and discovered it is an inch below the knee. Aaargh! Sophie knows it is social death to have a skirt anything longer than two inches above the knee. And some of the first-year girls are phoning each other in tears, because Peter Jones has run out of Big School blazers and they must suffer the indignity of their Junior School ones for the first week. Poor them. Poor her. Poor me. We are all heading for a nasty learning curve.

## My first day at school

INTERVIEWS BY  
CAYTE WILLIAMS

**Allison Roberts (half of fashion design duo Antoni & Alison)**  
Pashley Down Primary School, East Sussex, 1968

**F**rom the day I knew I was going to school, I'd known that my teacher's name was Miss Sykes. I had a huge fear of getting her name wrong and called her Miss Skies all that day and all through school. The more nervous I was of getting it wrong, the worse it got. My mum made me this pink cape with a fur hood and I remember walking along with my mum to school on the first day, trying to remember this lady's name.

I started school a bit later than some of the other children. I think some people started in September, but because my birthday was in February, I started in March. My mum took me to the school and I remember being really, really nervous. It seemed that everybody



knew what was going on apart from me.

I remember going into the canteen for school dinners. The dinner ladies would give you a piece of meat pie on a plate and you would have to help yourself to potatoes from this pot in the middle of the table when you sat down. I remember the children passing it around and I saw it coming towards me. I was very ner-

vous and didn't want to draw attention to myself at all. I remember balancing a potato on my spoon, and watching it wobble because I was shaking so much with nerves. Then somebody jolted my arm and this potato went flying across the table and landed in a boy's dinner. Gravy splattered all over his nice striped T-shirt and he was so upset that he screamed his head off. I remember seeing this big cartoon mouth like something out of Charlie Brown. I can still see his tonsils now.

**Meg Henderson, novelist**  
St Philomena's Roman Catholic Primary School, Glasgow, 1954

**I**taught myself to read before I went to school, so when I arrived, there was this great rumour. I grew up in the Black Hill district of Glasgow which was a place connected for the poor Irish Catholics in Glasgow. It was the safest and

most moral place I have ever lived, because the police wouldn't go anywhere near there so it was policed by the teddy boy gangs.

When my mother told the teachers that I could read, they produced a book with a smug look on their faces, but were shocked when I started to read. The teachers got stuck into my mother on the very first day, their idea was that learning was theirs to give, and not yours to give yourself. My first day was spent stuck at a desk and given book after book to read while the other children played with plasticine. I didn't realise it was a punishment.

I ran home to my mother at lunchtime to make sure she was still there. When I went back in the afternoon I read books. I was wearing a white frilly blouse, a little Royal Stuart tartan kilt, kiltie shoes with big silver buckles on the front, and a big ribbon which looked like I had a budgie on my head.

I remember I was getting up quite excited because my big brother was already there and school. I remember getting all dressed up in that bloody outfit. My mother took me along to school and I remember that all these kids were crying because it was their first experience of being away from their mothers. My brother was in the other part of the school, so telling him that I'd been to school was very exciting.

The funny thing was the teachers regarded me with some esteem, because everytime a school inspector came, they made me get up and read as an example of their success. I knew all the children who were in my class anyway because we lived in a close-knit community.

I remember running home from school, not only because I was excited, but because the gas works nearby opened up all their pipes at around 3pm and there were no filters in those days. If you were out-

side you got the full-blast of the sulphur.

When I got home from school, I couldn't believe that I had to go back the next day.

**Sarah Carlton, Communications trainer**  
College House Juniors, Nottingham, 1968

**M**y father was in the forces so I must have moved to a new school in both England and Germany seven times. The longest time I ever spent was in my last school which was for five years. The day I remember the most clearly, was going to the second year of a junior school when I was eight. I was really nervous and I remember walking into the class. The teacher introduced me and everybody was staring at me. It was like taking a deep breath and jumping in to the deep end of the swimming pool.

While the teacher talked about me

السلامة





John Voos

Things will be easier once she starts school. For four years now, this has been our mantra. Not to worry about the huge sums we've had to shell out for nannies, childminders and nurseries. Pay no attention to that stack of letters from irate bank managers, concerned credit card companies and unpaid accountants. Come September 1997, we won't have to pay for childcare anymore and our outgoings will be cut in half. We'll be able to start clearing our debts, stop working quite so hard, remember how to breathe.

Pandora is the second child of a second family. My eldest is already at university, so it feels as if we've been at this forever. It's hard to imagine what life is like for people who don't have little children, and it's hard to believe that we're soon to rejoin their ranks. But now the big day has arrived, it is Pandora herself who shocks me.

There's half an hour to go before we have to leave but she's already standing at the door, gazing with admiring disbelief at her shiny navy shoes and her new navy pinafore. Her hair, which she's been wearing long and wild all summer, is in a neat, sensible ponytail. There is not a single trace of the baby left in her face. When did this transformation happen, and why didn't I notice it? I do not ask this question out loud, but Frank seems to be thinking it, too, because after a very quiet breakfast, he says that he wants to come too.

He takes a picture of Pandora alone outside our door, and then he takes another picture of her with her almost six-year-old sister, Helen, as they head up the path. When we get to the school grounds, Helen's best friend, Ella, joins them, and the three girls pose for the camera together, as stiffly and proudly as if they were at a wedding. The two older girls have jaunty smiles. Next to them Pandora starts gnawing her fist and sud-

The older children darting past us are so large, rough and careless. What if one of them ploughed into her and cracked her head open?

BY MAUREEN FREELY

denly looks tiny. When the bell rings and I offer her my hand, she holds it very tight.

"Don't worry, everything will be fine," I say as I lead her into the building, but I have a hard time believing it because now I am seeing everything through her eyes. The older children darting past us are so large, rough and careless. There are so many coatpegs lining the classroom wall and the teacher is so tall. But she has taken steps to reassure us - there on the low table, is the album with the photographs she took of Pandora and her classmates when they came in for a visit last term. And there, in the corner, is a pillow with Pandora's name on it.

Helen had this same teacher last year, so I already have confidence in her. I remind myself that the school has nothing in common with the school where my eldest had his first day 13 years ago. He didn't stay there long: the playground bullies had knocked out all his front teeth by the end of the month; by the end of term his teacher still hadn't found out that he already knew how to read. But when I took him to school on that very first day, everything had seemed perfectly fine.

How can I be sure my sense of security now isn't just as false? What if one of those rough older children ploughed into Pandora by accident and cracked her head open?

When I put my key in the door and hear my

I am back again trying to teach English calmly in an inner city comprehensive. It is a struggle. First comes the class register with its usual drizzle of interruptions. The contemptuous latecomers; the louche, in-my-face bursting of bubble-gum; my demands that students divest themselves of hats, headphones, crisps, coats, breakfast and gum before we can start. Everyone seems to have PhDs in attitude.

It's not the teaching that pushes you over the edge, but the welter of nonsense that surrounds it. Ofsted, think-tanks, non-think-tanks, the fever for new strategies, monitors, appraisers and performance related, stress management and relentlessly dysfunctional electronic registers. Lady Porter selling cemetaries rather than financing a school play and articles which denounce us for promoting turpitude, illiteracy and the breakdown of the family.

And I have Jiri in my class. Jiri is a traveller from Eastern Europe, a recent immigrant from a war zone. It is his first day in an English school. He is 11 and resembles Oliver Hardy.

He is sitting in the corner chewing gum. His life has led him from the bleak rigours of Prague to the bleak licence of Queensway. Jiri has been hounded by various political systems. It has made him dizzy. He

It's not the teaching that pushes you over the edge, it's the welter of nonsense that surrounds it.

BY JACK STONE

is losing his own language, gaining little else and becoming an un-elected mute. He has never been to school in his life. His introduction to the Western intellectual tradition is the downtown Beirut of this inner city classroom. He can't decide if he's been shipped by the secret police or has escaped to a circus jumble sale or Checkpoint Charlie.

Jiri is bored. A curious smile plays across his vacant face. He is putting gum into the hair of the pupil in front of him. This pupil attempts to divest himself of the gum. He is unsuccessful and merely redistributes it more widely. He starts to weep. It is his only language. Jiri starts to laugh. It is his only language.

But for me this is one too many of the little acts of unkindness I have confronted all day long. It may be interesting, significant or even poignant, but I have had it. Jiri has ruined the lesson. *Stig of the Dump* dies in such stuttering incoherence that even the Band One pupils

I had to stand in front of the class and afterwards she found me a desk. She said, "this is Sarah, and she's come to us from Germany. I want you to make her welcome". All it did was have the opposite effect. The kids were giggling.

I used to tap-dance, sing and tell jokes. I felt I had to perform in order for them to like me. I just felt otherwise I would be ignored. I do remember it did have a counter effect in that they thought I was a terrible show-off. I used to put on this big confidence thing although I was terrified at the time. I always knew I would be moving on. That is why I had to make an impression immediately. I remember humming in the class, and the teacher said 'Do it for everybody' and so I stood up in the desk and started to sing. I remember I was wearing a little pinafore from Marks & Spencer, my hair was done up in a chiffon scarf and my front teeth missing.

**Max Clifford, publicist, All Saints Junior School, South Wimbledon, 1951**

I remember my first day at junior school when I was eight. I had a fight. I was quite often involved in physical confrontation when I was in school. It was just one of those playground things. I was playing football. I bumped into someone, they said something, so did I and it ended up in a fight. The trouble was that it turned out to be Andrew Baxter, a well-spoken boy whose father was the headmaster of the school.

Here I was on my first day hauled up for fighting. The other boy had a bleeding nose and he wasn't happy. This all happened at lunch time. My teacher separated us and said that 'you are here so we can make gentlemen of you, not hooligans of you, so change your ways'.

Both of us got it in the neck but it really was my fault. I never got on with him afterwards and the head-



master was a grumpy old so-and-so. My mum often used to tell the story to my relatives. It was one of those family stories you always tell. I think someone at the school must have told her because I kept it to myself. I found early on in primary school that being good at sport things were far more pleasant. I was good at swimming and football.

I was the youngest of four kids, so I didn't find the first day of school daunting. My sister was an outstanding scholar and finished up in the diplomatic service, but I left school at 15. My mum didn't take me into school on my first day because she was too busy and I didn't want her to anyway. It would have been too embarrassing.

**Billie, pop singer, Brookfields Primary School, Swindon, 1967**

My school actually opened on my first day, so we were very much aware that everything was new. I didn't want to go. I was really nervous because I knew that I would have to spend so much of my time at school. Both my sister and I did the same thing on our first day, which was to kick the teacher and refuse to let go of my mother's hand. When my mum left I thought she had abandoned me so I started screaming. I hated being

left with all these children I didn't know who kept messing around.

I remember I wore grey tights and black Star Right leather shoes. I've got quite wide feet and my mum bought them because they were sensible. I also wore a grey skirt, grey cardigan, white blouse and a red and white chequered ribbon. I was really brown because I had just come back from holiday.

After a while I got used to school. I made friends with this girl called Charlotte on the first day who became my best friend for three years. I just think it was a chemical bond and we wouldn't separate from each other. We used to sleep around each other's houses. I also remember that I met a girl called Sally on my first day at secondary school who became my best friend ever. If it weren't for her I probably wouldn't be doing what I do now. She has always given me so much support. When I had to leave Swindon to go to London we



I found school very bizarre at first because I never went to pre-school, so I found the learning thing really hard. I found the maths and writing very difficult at first but I got into it. By the end of it I loved doing handwriting.

There was also that thing of going from being oldest in your class to being the youngest. I had so many friends at play school and I knew I would have to start all over again at making new friends.

I got really close to the teachers. I still talk to them now when I go to school to pick up my little brother and sister. Sometimes I really miss those days when I could just play in the sand pit. When I went back there recently I noticed that the toilets were so small, and the mirrors and the water fountains are so low down that you have to bend down to reach them. It's quite scary in a way because I can see how quickly I am growing up.

# Reach for the summit of the soul

Why climb a mountain? Because, cold, pain, privation and final triumph can be a truly transcendent experience. By Eric Kendall



In the last week of August, 15 climbers were killed in the space of eight days as they took on the challenge of Mont Blanc

Bonington Library

At some point during the climb up Mont Blanc, you are bound to start thinking the same way as all the valley-hubbers who only ever have the one question: "Why?" The best answer is: "Go and climb a mountain. Then you'll know."

Much more revealing is George Leigh Mallory's own question and answer: "Have we vanquished an enemy? None but ourselves."

In the last week of August, "Why?" seemed a particularly valid question, with 15 climbers killed on Mont Blanc in the space of just eight days. To die on a supposedly easy route, even if it does take you to the 4,807-metre top of Western Europe's highest mountain, seems particularly pointless. It raises other questions, too – specifically, whether people should be allowed up there on their own, regardless of experience and ability.

When you consider what is really involved in climbing Mont Blanc, the "why?" becomes even harder to answer, and not just because of the dangers the mountain poses. The

most popular route is one long slog, hard on the heels of a steady stream of other aspirants. You don't need to be a technical expert to do it; your fitness and determination are tested above all else.

First you walk, then you scramble up a well-worn route, which is bolted and cabled at the most exposed, steep parts.

At 3,800 metres, hundreds of climbers crowd the dormitories of the Gouter Hut, which may be luxurious compared to a cold night in a tent or a snow hole, but is far removed from most people's idea of mountain solitude. It is also high enough for people to suffer mild altitude sickness in the form of headaches and nausea. If that doesn't get you, the stench of the toilets will; because of the cold, they cannot be flushed with water.

The final section is climbed in the dark, to reach the summit around dawn, a trade-off between the extreme cold of night-time, even in summer, and the heat of the day catching you on the way down.

It means that most of the climb

is done by the light of a head torch, saving the nervous from seeing the precipitous drops that extend either side of The Bosses' ridge, the setting for the old joke between roped climbers, "If I fall into Italy, you jump into France".

By this time, a combination of

mountain, with or without a guide? The view alone is not enough, although the combination of privation and extreme physical effort, followed by the pleasure of returning to the valley, to warmth, ample food and water, green fields and deep sleep, certainly start to add up. But

challenging enough, by a stricter definition only challenges such as mountains can really cut the mustard. Though you may not be able to see the top, it is there right enough, as a physical and conceptual goal to be reached; yet, until the moment you finally make it to the top, you're

and commit to a course where turning back may no longer be an option. Also the physical definition of a mountain gives climbers a precise objective, an imperative that they cannot ignore.

Which is where it can start to go wrong. Mountaineers survive by judgement rather than luck, but the lure of reaching the top, regardless of the prevailing conditions, can sometimes be a fatal siren. The aspect of climbing mountains that is hardest to reconcile is that the danger itself, which you strive to minimise, does appeal in some strange way.

Inevitably, this draws the most public interest, while the full picture, the connection of danger with the primitive aspect of mountaineering, is often ignored. If the need for excitement, and perhaps danger, is in part a reaction to modern day life, then so is the need to reduce life to its essentials, boiling it down to a few critical decisions.

Instead of having 100 different things to consider and respond to in a single day, you may have just one

or two, but they will be vital to your well-being: "Do I go, or don't I?" "Is it safer in this direction, or that?" While the rest – eat when you're hungry, drink when you're thirsty – takes care of itself.

Under these circumstances, the dangers of your environment are just part of your surroundings, part of life, and partly the reason you are there. Recognising them and reacting appropriately can minimise risks to a surprising degree, to the extent that learning to cope alone and unguided is not only more rewarding than climbing with a guide, but also allows you to make your own judgements and determine your fate for yourself.

After a while in the hills and mountains, you will know yourself and your capabilities better than anyone. Surviving the risks to reach the top, through a combination of preparation, judgement and effort is probably the closest you will ever come to knowing the answer to the impossible question "Why?" – which leaves anyone who is even thinking about it only one option.

*This is where it can go wrong – mountaineers survive by judgement rather than by luck but the lure of reaching the top, regardless of the prevailing conditions, can sometimes become a fatal siren*

cold, altitude and fatigue has made "Why?" a highly relevant question, even for the keenest, particularly when you discover that your water bottle and food have frozen solid, and you realise that if your companions have tusk-like icicles protruding from their noses, then you probably have, too. Even for someone who likes a challenge, this can hardly be considered much fun.

So why climb this or any other

these sensations, to which we can directly relate, seem to be just side-shows, secondary to the real story of mountain and mountaineer.

As a point of focus, the mountain acts as a unique challenge at which to aim, particularly to those for whom the simple possibility of doing something compels them to try to do it – a distinctly childlike quality, still present in a surprising number of adults. And though life may seem

mainly unsure that you will be able to meet the challenge.

Most other apparent challenges tend to have an incremental quality to them, with the goalposts moving over the medium or long term. Some of mountaineering has that flexibility, too, particularly in response to changing conditions, but there must always come a key moment if you are to reach the top, when you move beyond that stage

## Fifteen minutes? Not nearly enough

ANDY WARHOL seriously underestimated a nation's appetite for personal fame. Fifteen minutes? Forget it – that's for the sabbos who were content with a quick whinge in a Channel 4 'Right To Reply' booth. Why not aim higher – make it Forty Minutes and rising: a Cutting Edge special or a BBC1 docu-soap.

"It could be you", promises the latest wave of TV verité. In this case why wait for celebrity when hauling out a few dysfunctional skeletons from the family cupboard or just "being yourself" can guarantee a TV spotlight, modelling contract, record deal or tabloid makeover. This, we presume, was the television logic that informed Bradford model Victoria Greetham's decision to appear in a Channel 4 documentary "Daddy's Girl", until yesterday when she was exposed as a fake.

As part of the documentary, a sequence was even made to highlight a "special closeness" between parent and child. Except that 19-year-old Victoria's 'daddy' was, in this case, really her boyfriend, just 10 years her senior, who, say unwitting TV producers, looked a great deal older. The pair decided to present themselves as father and daughter to the filmmakers when her real father refused to take part. Daddy, a managing di-

rector of a publishing firm, threatened to sue when he found out. Now Victoria must be content with selling the story to a tabloid newspaper.

"They could have quite easily found out it wasn't my dad, but it is not their fault that we acted so well," said Victoria sweetly, no doubt laying the groundwork for an MTA (model-turned-actress) option. Paul Smith, a Channel 4 spokesman, said that Victoria had wished to promote her modelling career. "It's very much the case that she wanted to be famous. This is about celebrity."

It's also about raising the stakes for those people who yearn for a taste of celebrity. In a rather delightful irony, the Nineties brand of "fame-for-being-ordinary" is actually as difficult to perfect as "fame-for-being-extraordinary" – as Victoria, who hoped one would lead to the other, has discovered.

Projecting reality, rather than fantasy, is a lot more difficult that it looks. Time was when acting out your dreams was a ticket into the limelight; when "Opportunity Knocks" and "Stars in their Eyes" were the

vehicles. If we watched a contestant pretending to be Gary Numan, dressed up in tin foil and singing Are Friends Electric, authenticity certainly wasn't the key to our enjoyment – if anything, it obscured it.

Now realism for realism's sake defines our enjoyment. Fakery and contrivance suddenly offends us. As viewers, once we doubt the "slice of life" before us, we feel duped. Which means that the deal these days between producer and subject can be a lot more insidious, open to manipulation on both sides. As part of a Faustian pact, Victoria and her boyfriend were asked to pose in their pyjamas to illustrate a supposed "unusual closeness" between father and daughter, which sounds a bit creepy; to say the least. The fact that they were so willing to act out this relationship – knowing that her father may well watch it – shows a rather sadder desperation than any even your average Celine Dion imitator – well, almost.

But Victoria is part of a rising breed of television hopefuls who believe that she can manipulate tele-

vision and not the other way round – perhaps that's an empowering way of looking at it, but probably rather naive. Recently, four aspiring females agreed to have their domestic lives monitored for "The Dolls House", produced by the Bravo cable channel for their web site. In exchange for such exposure, their prize is minor celebrity. "It will be great publicity for me," enthuses 21-year-old Arwen, one of the 'dolls' who's a professional singer, actress, whatever. The foursome's home has cameras in each bedroom, providing Net surfers with live images updated every 10 seconds.

But when the nature of celebrity throws itself so open wide, it's bound to ensnare a few victims. Since fame no longer means achieving greatness, then badness will do just as well. Earlier this week, Louise Woodward told the Television Festival in Edinburgh: "People don't distinguish between celebrity and notoriety. People do recognise me... they are treating me like a minor celebrity, but I'm not famous for anything good."

If nothing else, Victoria's antics ex-

posed this week the subject of authenticity further into the limelight, amid accusations of documentary "set-ups" as well as the material motives that encourage ordinary people to take part. Who can blame them with success stories like Jane McDonald, who appeared in the BBC1 documentary "The Cruise", then landed a record deal worth half a million; her debut album got to No 1. "I'm the Cinderella of showbusiness," she cooed.

What's intriguing is why others should wish to follow in the footsteps of most docu-soap stars; if they're lucky, they'll be wheeled out for a guest appearance on GMTV, "The Big Breakfast" or maybe even a daytime makeover spot on "Style Challenge". Within a year, though, it's almost guaranteed that invites will have dwindled to the occasional shop opening or village fete.

Then they enter that strange netherworld where celebrity meets mundanity, one probably inhabited by Maureen Rees, the learner driver from "Driving School", and Eileen, no-nonsense manageress of The Adelphi, Liverpool's biggest hotel. Even if Victoria doesn't think so, she's probably had a lucky escape. Then again, her story sounds like great real life material for a documentary...



Victoria Greetham and boyfriend found their route to fame by fooling TV docu-soap makers they were father and daughter

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# Wizard from the world of truth and justice

James Randi is the enemy of psychics, faith healers and spoon-benders, and he's out for blood. By Jerome Burne

**D**o you believe in God? You're deluded. Are you a scientist who believes in God? Then you ought to know better. James Randi, professional magician, science fraud-buster and America's arch-sceptic, is not afraid to offend. In fact, he has spent half a lifetime putting people's backs up and collecting enemies as effortlessly as the rest of us collect CDs. He's an evangelist, a preacher. For him, the world is divided into the believers and the unbelievers, only, in his book, it is the believers who are in error, condemned to the darkness of ignorance. Salvation and light lies on the straight and narrow path of rationality. Even though you are beset on all sides by the lure of psychic powers, *The X-Files*, dowsing, homeopathy, chiropractic, let the scientific method be your one and only true guide.

For years now, he has been taunting the world of mediums, spoon-benders and all who claim paranormal powers. Currently, he is offering more than \$1m to anyone who can successfully demonstrate psychic powers, according to a simple agreement of what constitutes success. Dozens have tried to claim it, but none has succeeded. Has he ever feared he might lose the money? "No one has even come close," he says.

Next week, the amazing Randi will be unleashed on the British public in a mini lecture tour, which starts on Monday at the British Association meeting in Cardiff. At least nine brave souls have declared that they will take up his mocking gauntlet. They should be under no illusion that he will treat them kindly should they fail. For instance, when a nurse wrote to him recently claiming that a form of healing known as Therapeutic Touch worked on the principles of quantum physics he replied: "Cynthia, Cynthia, Cynthia. Dipping into quantum physics may fool a few folks, but your view of it is just plain wrong, silly, unscientific, and juvenile. It's just nut stuff. I hope you're a better nurse than you are a scientist."

Is there any difference between American and British fans of the paranormal? "No, people are pretty much the same around the world, although what they go for varies. In Britain, you are very big on dowsing

for some reason. They seem very honest folk, just self-deluded." Randi will team up next week with our very own bare-knuckle atheist, Richard Dawkins, Professor of the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University, to bash the believers.

Although Randi is delighted to take on all comers, his name has been inextricably entwined with that of Uri Geller, the professional spoon-bender, for the past 20 years. Ever since he advised Johnny Carson how to make his studio magician-proof, and Geller sat for an agonising 23 minutes unable to manage a single psychic feat, the two have conducted a malevolent dance. Randi wrote a book entitled *The Magic of Uri Geller*, which claimed he was no more than a magician, and not a very good one at that. Geller, for his part, sued Randi in several countries around the world.

However, Geller is still performing - he used "psychic powers" to make seeds sprout in his hands earlier this year in the Albert Hall - and Randi is still pursuing him, although cautiously. "I do this trick by having some radish or mustard seeds poured into the hand of a spectator," explains Randi. "Then I reveal that one or two of the seeds are sprouted, and I gradually move away from the other seeds so that one sprout seems to develop. It's an old trick, mentioned in a similar form by Madame Blavatsky when she visited India." Then he delivers the sly killer punch: "Mr Geller, however, does his demonstration by genuine supernatural means, he tells us. To me, that seems to be the hard way."

Another of Randi's targets was the French biochemist Jacques Benveniste, whose homeopathic claims were aggressively challenged when Randi and others investigated his lab 10 years ago for the journal *Nature*. Has he given up? Not at all. Earlier this year he announced that he could send homeopathic remedies over the Internet. Treatment by e-mail.

And this highlights Randi's problem: the hydra-headed nature of his adversary. However many times he lops off a paranormal head with the simple sword of scientific method, several more sprout in their place. Furthermore, and this is the really galling part, the public goes on believing in them. For years, the polls have been showing that Randi and



For years James Randi has fought the good fight for rationalism and an end to unscientific mummery

the rationalists are in the minority: 61 per cent of people believe there are paranormal things that science cannot explain, and 71 per cent of women believe in some sort of a god, and so on.

What is needed is proper scientific education, says the American Committee for Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP). Randi's own contribution to this is the James Randi Educational Foundation, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Set up with the aid of an anonymous donation of \$2m from a computer magnate, the 5,200-square-foot facility contains a library of 1,220 books on the paranormal and related subjects, 700 hours of video, and high-speed, 24-hour Internet access for researchers and students. Funds also come from lectures, tele-

vision appearances and regular seminars for \$199 a head.

But, ultimately, Randi's great value is not so much as an educator but as a scientific street fighter. He is a magician, a self-confessed scam artist and trickster. He knows how these things work. Scientists may be suspicious, but often they are hard put to say just where the trapdoor is. Most of us have no way of assessing miracle claims. After all, we go to David Copperfield to be shown miracles on a nightly basis.

However, show Randi a tape of a paranormal exponent, such as João Teixeira de Faria - the "miracle" healer of Brazil, who claims to have cured 15 million people over 35 years with psychic operations such as placing a knife inside the eye - and this is what you get: "The 'eyeball'

stunt he does is very old. I saw it done in carnivals when I was a kid. There are no pain nerves in the sclera [the white of the eye] that would react to a knife being placed there. That is the most common thing that this man does, regardless of the patient's complaint. Refer to my book *Fim-Flam!* to see me with a knife under my eyelid. Or try it yourself."

So why do people persist in these foolish beliefs, even when the cold light of reason shows them to be absurd? It is not a question Randi is particularly revealing about. "They want comfort," he suggests. Well, yes, that other great rationalist, Karl Marx, said something similar about opium of the people. Then, like everyone else, he blames the media. "TV programmes don't want to hear

about reality. That Hitler died in his bunker is not a story. Say he's alive in Rio and you've got a series." But this hardly seems a good enough explanation for the sale of about 40 paranormal books for every one of his which debunk the stuff.

But, as he might say, you don't ask a molecular biologist to fix your teeth. Randi is a performer. He's brilliant at knockabout, and has lots of humour. I asked if all his targets were equally risible. Didn't homeopathy have some evidence for it? "Do you know what the theory of it is? It's complete madness," he snaps back. "However, it is one of the delusions you Brits are particularly keen on. Probably because the Windsors have been relying on it for 220 years. Maybe that's why they are in the state they are today."

## UPDATE

**NEKT WEEK** sees the start of the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, the biggest science festival in the country, which this year is to be held at Cardiff University. The event begins on Sunday and runs until Friday, and will include hands-on science demonstrations including the properties of "exploding custard", which always proves popular.

**BLACK HOLES** really are not the way to "tunnel" through space, say Israeli scientists who have the computer simulations to prove it. For some years hopeful people (often devotees of *Star Trek*) have suggested that by passing into a spinning black hole, one might somehow escape the incredible forces inside to avoid being torn apart - and then emerge in another part of the universe, having effectively travelled faster than light. But the team showed that as you move towards a black hole, its apparent mass increases towards infinity - and eventually you are ripped to atomic shreds.

**DEGENERATIVE** neurological disorder such as Alzheimer's disease might be treated with nose drops, according to research reported in this week's *New Scientist*. William Frey at the Alzheimer's Research Center in St Paul, Minnesota, realised that the olfactory nerves run directly from the nasal cavity to the brain's olfactory "bulb". Tests in rats showed that this nasal route can surmount the problem of getting drugs across the blood-brain barrier, which usually excludes most large molecules.

Bad weather is expected as a byproduct of global warming, but might it also contribute to it? In a study in *Nature*, scientists at the Bermuda Station for Biological Research suggest that hurricanes may themselves contribute to global warming by cooling the sea - meaning it can absorb less carbon dioxide - and hurling large amounts of that freed gas into the atmosphere.

In 1995 the team at the BSR measured the increased carbon dioxide levels generated by three hurricanes in the Sargasso Sea (a normally placid part of the Atlantic); with Hurricanes Felix, Luis and Marilyn, the ocean surface cooled while the winds, of more than 100mph, whipped up the sea to exchange carbon dioxide. The three events increased the total amount of carbon dioxide transfer in that region that summer by 55 per cent.

However, it is still unclear what effect the ten or so hurricanes occurring annually could have on the bigger picture of climate change: that is still being investigated.

CHARLES ARTHUR

## TECHNOQUEST

**Q** Why don't woodpeckers get headaches? Woodpeckers have fluid surrounding their brains. They also have very large skulls and small brains - with not much momentum on impact. They also have shock absorbers in the junctions between their beak and skull.

**Q** How is plastic made? Plastic is made by a process called polymerisation. This is where chains of molecules (made up mostly of carbon and hydrogen atoms) are stuck together to make very long chains of molecules and networks. The raw material the chains of molecules come from is usually coal.

**Q** What is Russian multiplication? Russian or peasant multiplication is multiplication by repeated doubling. For example, to multiply 17 by 13 you double the 17 and halve the 13, and add the doubles that correspond to an odd number in the other column. Like this: 17 x 13 =

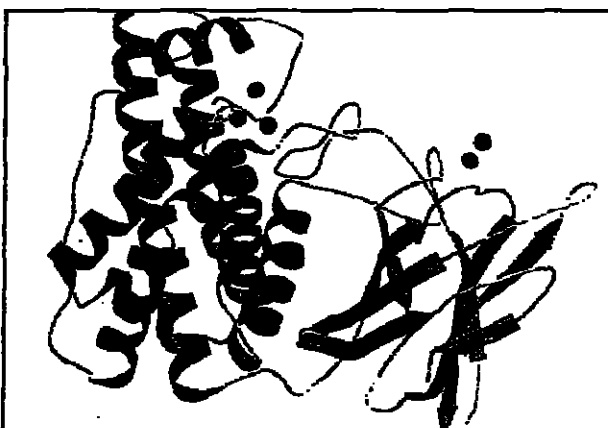
doubled and halved: 34 x 6 (add 17): doubled and halved: 68 x 3 (add 68): doubled and halved: 136 x 1. So the answer is 136 + 68 + 17 = 221. It's a handy way of writing long multiplication in binary.

**Q** How do cats purr? Recent research suggests that in domestic cats its the vibration of an elastic ligament linking the clavicle bone to the throat - which creates a purr during both inhaling and exhaling. In their larger cousins, things are slightly different, restricting the purring to an out-breathe only. Neither kind of cat ever stops purring - they just control the volume - with loud purrs conveying anything from anger in a Snow Leopard to contentment in a Tabby!

You can visit the Technoquest World Wide Web site at <http://www.sciencenet.org.uk>

Questions and answers provided by Dial-a-Scientist on 0345 600444

## THE TRUTH ABOUT... GANGRENE



The three-dimensional structure of the gangrene toxin

bacteria to enter the body. Hundreds of victims of the tidal wave disaster in Papua New Guinea succumbed to gas gangrene. Many had to have limbs removed.

About 100 people a year develop gangrene in Britain, often from complications after traffic accidents.

There is no cure for gas gangrene, which can overwhelm a person within hours. Antibiotics work only if they are taken long before infection takes root. Once infected, the diseased tissue turns black; death can occur within six hours.

Military authorities have taken a keen interest in the toxin produced by the bacteria because of its potential for use as a weapon of biological warfare. Saddam Hussein is believed to have purchased two tons of the bacteria, apparently in order to produce enough toxin for use in missile warheads. Conflated shrapnel would inoculate the bacterial toxin directly into the flesh of bomb victims.

protective cell membrane. After a century of research, scientists have now found a chink in gas gangrene's armour that may eventually lead to the development of vaccines or drugs.

Professor David Moss, Dr Ajit Basak and Dr Claire Naylor, of Birkbeck College, London, have worked out the three-dimensional structure of the bacterium's deadly toxin with the help of scientists from Porton Down, the Ministry of Defence's chemical weapons research facility. They believe they have found the "active site" that is responsible for binding to human cells and thereby triggering the cascade of chemical reactions that lead to the rapid destruction of cell membranes.

Dr Basak said: "We want to design something that will bind to the active sites on the toxin molecule to stop it working. Identifying the three-dimensional structure is the first step in the development of drugs to target the toxin and neutralise its effects."

STEVE CONNOR  
SCIENCE EDITOR

## EN

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## Rusalka

Dvořák



# The new pavement artists

Collaborations between architects and aesthetes are becoming more common. But there still has to be an element of chemistry. By James Fisher

Artists have long worked with architects to produce art for their new buildings – Broadcasting House, for instance, would be unthinkable without the Eric Gill sculpture over its entrance. But the status of the art work conceived for a particular setting has always been uncertain: stand-alone object or part of the fabric?

That status was cleared up last week with the decision by Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, to return a Henry Moore relief to the building for which it was made. His decision has set an important precedent for site-specific art – although quite where it leaves the Elgin Marbles is anyone's guess – and is timely because recently there has been a growth in collaborative work between artists and architects.

In many ways the Glaswegian-born artist, Bruce McLean, is the forerunner of a new generation of artists who collaborate with architects not simply by providing a suitable work for a new building-sculpture for the foyer or painting for the boardroom – but by coming up with a concept for the building where architect and artist become partners in the creative process. "I want to be involved at the outset and not just as an add-on," he says.

McLean became involved with architects in a professional sense when he met Will Alsop in 1978 and they have worked together on real

thing on the actual designs."

What they developed for the Tottenham Hale concourse are three separate pieces: a 16m-high lit beacon (the Tower of Time), a fountain (the Bridge of Signs) and some paving, which incorporates writing by local children (the Path of the People). "There are lots of people at Tottenham Hale waiting for buses, trains and at the traffic lights and that can be a bit boring. The idea was to give them something fun to look at but not too obvious. So it takes time to work out that the fountain's a clock and more time to work out what time it is," says Lyall.

Like McLean, and perhaps influenced by him, he is very clear about how collaborations work most effectively: "The way I feel about the best collaborations is that we start with a blank sheet of paper and work together in free form and what results is something which neither would have thought of separately. I like working with artists because they have a different eye and way of thinking. But some collaborations don't work if the chemistry isn't there or it is one-sided."

Lyall is also critical of other architects who aren't keen on getting involved: "Some architects, even some very famous architects, are a bit strange about involving artists on their projects, believing they are the only creative talent, which is very arrogant and also missing an opportunity by being unnecessarily neurotic about the ownership of creative ideas." But there are enough

produced. The incinerator, which has an 85m-high chimney, was designed by Derby architects Faulks Perry Culley and Rech and the London-based artist Martin Richman. The council's suggestion for involving an artist was enthusiastically taken up by the client and the architects, according to project architect Ray Perry. The only problem was deciding on a suitable art form.

"We felt that a sculpture, fountain or painting would be inappropriate for what is a private building on a very public site and came up instead with the idea of external lighting," he says. Having decided on the appropriate form of art for their "industrial cathedral", the architects set about trying to find a suitable artist. They approached the Public Art Commissions Agency, which arranged a slide show of 30 artists who work with light. From that, they selected six who were given a set of plans for the new building and asked to present their ideas at an interview. Richman was picked, according to Perry, because he was "on the right wave-length for the type of building we had".

Getting the right match of architect and artist is absolutely crucial to the success of the project, according to Vivien Lovell, who is the director of the Public Art Commissions Agency. It is a charitable consultancy which aims to bring collaborative work to a wider audience than that which visits art galleries. Accordingly, it organises installations, temporary schemes and acts as a matchmaker for permanent building projects.

"Collaboration is becoming extremely fashionable but it is nevertheless a process full of pitfalls – sometimes there is too much territorial jealousy involved and sometimes the relationship just implodes," she says.

"Collaboration requires an enormous amount of generosity and time. The artists have to be involved from early on, it is undesirable to stick the art on at the end, that hardly ever works," she says.

In the case of Tyseley, Ray Perry had the necessary amount of generosity to allow Richman's involvement with the project to cause a number of fundamental changes to the external appearance of the incinerator and that was before he set to work on coming up with a lighting programme for it – a dramatic moving light show.

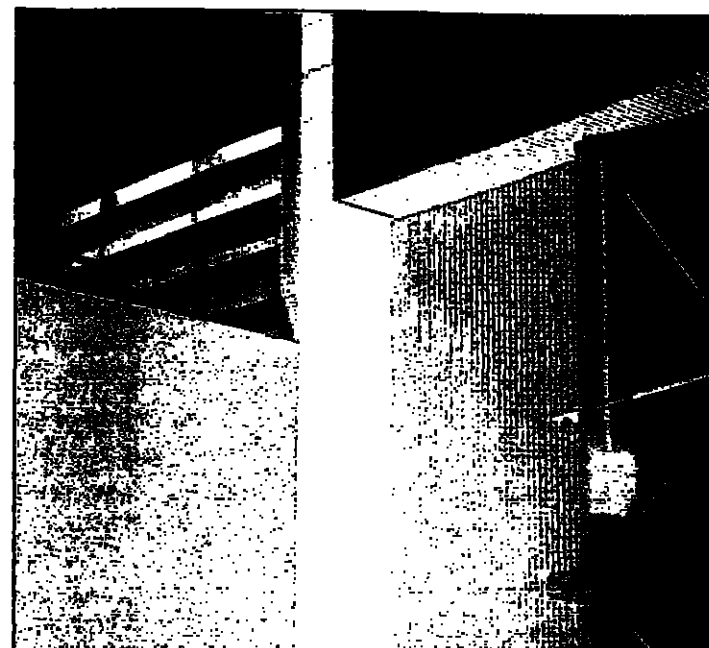
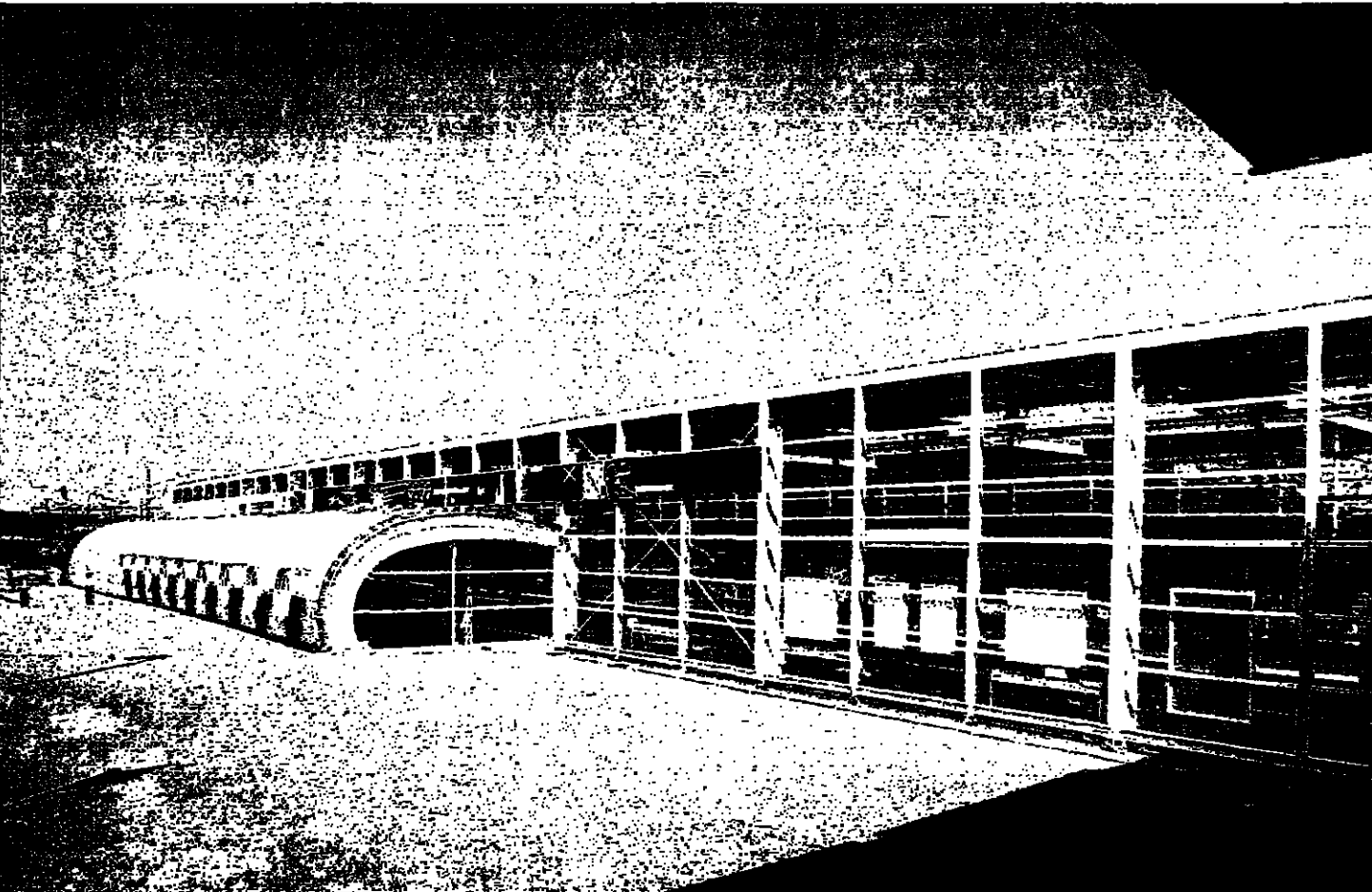
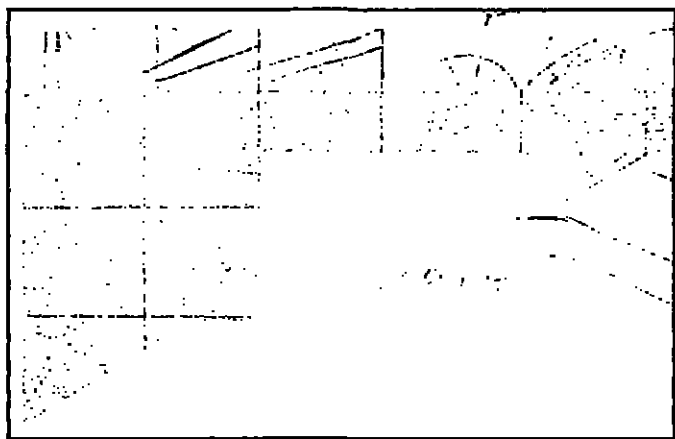
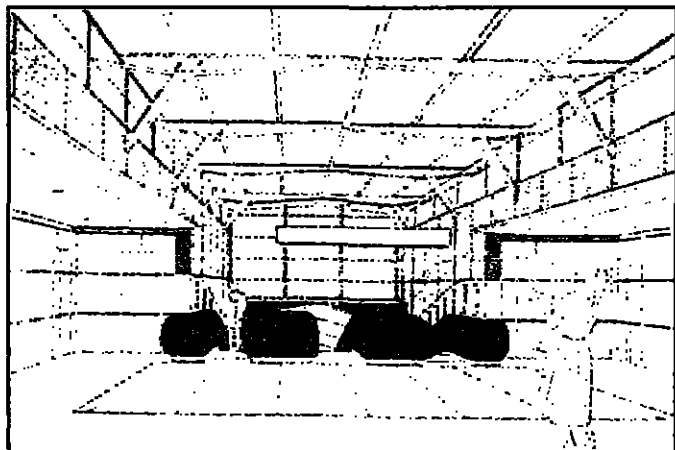
"Martin introduced the idea of red – to highlight the function of the building and its heat – so we changed the yellow cladding to red. He also introduced areas of translucent and transparent cladding to show the internal lighting," says Perry.

Although Richman had worked with architects on projects in the past, Tyseley was the first time he had worked on a building from scratch and had such a large input into its final appearance. Although enthusiastic about the outcome, he does have reservations about the process of achieving it.

"The problem with working in the public realm as an artist is that you have an idea and don't see it realized for three or four years. There's months and months of bureaucracy to get through, city councils, engineers, administrators and architects to deal with. It's all a long way from the interior life of a studio practice," he says.

He has overcome any qualms about public art projects and is now working on two other collaborative schemes with architects in Hackney and Bristol. In Hackney he is about to install a tube of light which changes colour according to wind intensity on the front of a new media centre, while in Bristol he has designed some beacons of light for that city's millennial celebrations.

The people of Birmingham seem pleased with the outcome: "I haven't heard anything from anywhere which is negative, it's all been favourable," says Perry. "And that's something of a first because we architects are used to getting kicked."



Above, from top: the Bridge of Signs in the forecourt to Tottenham Hale Tube station in London, a product of collaboration between the artist Bruce McLean and the architect John Lyall; the painted enamelled frieze on the Tottenham Hale overground station, designed in 1992; and the illuminated Tyseley energy to waste plant in the West Midlands, produced by artist Martin Richman and architect Ray Perry. Left: two views of the ticket hall at Tottenham Hale Tube station

Morley von Sternberg

and fantasy projects since, including proposals for Railtrack's new station at Blackfriars Bridge in London.

But his connection to architecture is more deep rooted, even genetic – his father was an architect as is his son. So although McLean brings an artistic sensibility to a collaborative project, he has an architectural grounding. He has just finished a project with Alsop's former partner, John Lyall, at Tottenham Hale in north east London. Lyall says: "I enjoy working with Bruce because he is eminently practical and pragmatic. Some of his ideas may seem a bit obvious but they have a very direct public appeal. It's certainly not art for art's sake."

At Tottenham Hale, McLean and Lyall have come up with a new concourse and Underground station – schemes which complement the mainline station which McLean, Lyall and Alsop designed together in 1991. Lyall says it was a collaborative process: "We spent lots of Sundays at his studio brainstorming before editing them down and set-

architects around who are enthusiastic about the possibilities offered – aside from Alsop and Lyall. McLean alone has worked with David Chipperfield in Bristol and Tokyo and is currently designing a new foreshore for Bridlington with Rayner Banham.

What started for McLean and Alsop as an experiment and a bit of fun has since been formalised and become more mainstream. McLean suggests: "Will and I started in a real way. We weren't put together as a lottery project and were doing it before all that public arts stuff."

Various organisations now promote artist/architect collaborations, including the Royal Society of Arts with its Art for Architecture programme and Birmingham City Council which has a "per cent for art" initiative, whereby one per cent of a new building's total cost is spent on an art work for it.

One product of this initiative is the city's new incinerator at Tyseley, which burns household waste and generates electricity from the heat



right, no violence has been done to the material." Judge for yourself at a show of work from Japanese collections at Bonhams.

*Bonhams auctioneers, Montpelier Street, London SW7 (0171-393 3900) from 4-17 September.*

## MUSIC

## Big in Japan... but anywhere else?

Collaborations between Tokyo's finest and the best of the UK's vibrant club scene are finally lending Japanese pop music some much-needed credibility. And, what's more, the cuter, trashier and fluffier the result, the better. **By Fiona Sturges**

CONVENTIONAL BRITISH reserve decrees that the Japanese always take things too far. Chris Tarrant cackles over excerpts from masochistic Japanese game shows and Clive James squeezes scornfully into their little capsule hotels. Even in our so-called cosmopolitan capital, identity-crazed Japanese youths are frowned upon for having the widest flares, the tallest platforms and the silliest hair.

Their irony-free obsession with all things cute in popular culture, (baby doll chic, Lilliputian gadgetry, squeaky cartoon characters, for example) is something that sits uncomfortably with British sensibilities. Indeed it is a notion that is completely at odds with their reputation as a super-efficient country full of maddy hard-working people.

Even their top-selling style bible, bursting with fanatically outlandish future aesthetics, is called *Cutie*.

We may flail in the face of Japanese technological know-how and marvel at their flair for cutting-edge design, but when it comes to Japanese pop music we snigger condescendingly, safe in the knowledge that here, at least, is something that we do better. Even though the Japanese boast more record shops than us, buy more CDs per week than any other country and churn out premium record- and CD-playing equipment, they seem almost incapable of producing a good mainstream pop record. We may have silently thanked them for taking the likes of Shampoo, Dannii Minogue and, more recently, Naomi Campbell off our hands, but their success in Japan confirmed for us that the country's musical taste embodies all that, to Western ears, is thoroughly naff.

But, like successions of European bands, Japanese musicians seem desperate to please the West and the British music industry as a benchmark of success, despite the fact that few have made it over here.

The all-girl rock outfit Shonen Knife are one of the few Japanese bands to have dented the market in the West, having supported Nirvana on their British tour. Their tuneful post-punk sound, little-girl attire and ice-cream appealed to unruly young girls and sent teenage boys into a cold sweat. It helped that they sang in English.

The Yellow Monkey were also a relatively successful Japanese export in spangly glam-rock circles, but they were short-lived and failed to reach the charts, having made the fatal mistake of singing in Japanese. But there is still a multitude of vastly successful pop bands in Japan who have never infiltrated the British charts.

The relentless growth of the club scene has recently afforded an outlet to more underground Japanese artists. Dance music is much easier to infiltrate, since the genre effortlessly crosses language barriers and, hot on the heels of the newly popular Asian club scene, Japanese records have prompted a considerable defrosting in the UK.

The Mo Wax impresario James Lavelle was so enthusiastic about Japanese club music that after his own record label first took off, he travelled to Tokyo in search of new sounds and welcomed DJ Krush, among others, into his fashionable fold.

Other Japanese acts are now finding their way into London clubs – notably Cornelius, a huge icon in Japan and hailed as the country's answer to France's Air. Pizzicato 5 (associated with last year's easy listening fad), Fantastic Plastic Machine, Ken Ishii, Denki Groove and the Boom Boom Satellites – and fashionable promoters are falling over each other to import Eastern DJs and start Japanese nights.

Last year's launch over here of the Beanie Boys' label Grand Royal gave a platform to the discordant electro-rock



Clockwise from top: Towa Tei, formerly of Deee-Lite, (Stephane Sednaoui), Fantastic Plastic Machine and Pizzicato 5

crossover band Buffalo Daughter, who this year have been touring with the Beasties' keyboardist Money Mark.

An independent German label, Bungalow Records, recently identified this trend and, having met up with Pizzicato 5 and been assured of an abundance of other class acts, produced a compilation called *Sushi 4004*. The album is composed of a mélange of different sounds from established Japanese names, as well as including debuts from new artists such as Collette and Qychoone.

Judging by this collection, Japanese dance music bears little relation to the country's traditional music. Where bands

such as Asian Dub Foundation use the sitar to give their sound the Indian rubber stamp, Tokyo DJs seem determined to obliterate all references to Japanese tradition, preferring to sample from Western sources and collaborate with Western artists.

But musicians deny that this is simply a tactic to woo Western consumers. Tomyudi Tanaka, of Fantastic Plastic Machine, one of the album's contributors, says: "A lot of our musicians consciously reject Japanese sounds, as they associate it with poor quality. Japan doesn't really have a history of modern music. When you think of America you think of hip-hop, with Germany it's elec-

tronic music and England is associated with punk, new wave and drum 'n' bass. This is something we don't have in Japan. So we borrow from anything and everything."

On occasions this can make their sound virtually indistinguishable from their Western counterparts, though what separates the *Sushi* tracks from British dance is their irrepressible predilection for kitsch, characterised by happy-clappy melodies, trashy samples and bouncing bass lines.

Tanaka says: "We don't really care about whether we fit into a certain style; we just like to have fun when we make music." It is this playful quality that has earned them the label "club pop" over here.

It fits neatly into their fondness for everything that is cute.

The packaging of their albums also reflects this image. They are decorated with reflective or sparkling materials and lurid colours, displaying a honey-coated yet slickly executed future aesthetic embracing astronauts, aliens, spaceships and other typically Western preoccupations.

The collaborative aspect of dance music has also been beneficial to Japanese artists. Ken Ishii is working with Talvin Singh, DJ Krush has worked with the ultra-hip British producer Howie B and recently ex-Deee-lite man Towa Tei has made a single with Kylie Minogue, though in this

WHO'S WHO IN THE  
NIPPON NEW WAVE

Yellow Magic Orchestra is one of the more credible ambassadors for Japanese pop. This all-male instrumental group cultivated an underground following in the late Seventies and early Eighties with their German-inspired electronica. Their 1980 single "Computer Game" (theme from *The Inners*) stayed in the charts for 11 weeks.

Ryuichi Sakamoto left Yellow Magic Orchestra and went on to enter the charts four times in the early Eighties with collaborations with Japan's David Sylvian. He is now an established composer of film sound tracks, with titles such as *Merry Christmas*, *Mr Lawrence* and *The Last Emperor* gracing his CV.

Sandii & The Sunsets are a poodle-haired outfit headed by the PVC-clad Sandii. They were responsible for "Alive", which epitomised Eastern tack and became one of the most famous Japanese pop songs of the Eighties. Despite heavy endorsements from the likes of David Bowie and the Eurythmics, the band had a short-lived international impact.

Shonen Knife is one of the few Japanese rock bands to make it big over here. This all-female ensemble, characterised by a giggly, Riot Grrris aesthetic, favoured a pop-punk thrust during the late Eighties, citing the Sex Pistols, XTC and the Ramones as their primary influences.

DJ Krush is the ultra-cool Tokyo-based DJ who was appropriated by James Lavelle for his ground-breaking *Headz* album. A far cry from his ostentatious clubby counterparts, Krush prefers lackadaisical hip-hop rhythms overlaid with spooky sampling.

FS

case you get the feeling that Minogue is making use of Tei's far-reaching reputation, rather than the other way around. The track "German Bold Italic" has a significantly more exotic flavour than Tei's customary club anthems and features Minogue talking and giggling over a minimalist house rhythm. A particularly bizarre accompanying video sees Minogue scuttling around the back streets of Tokyo dressed as a Geisha girl and looking suitably sweet.

"She is the ideal icon that appeals to both Japanese and Western people," says Tei. "She is very much a part of the club scene already, particularly among the gay community, and she looks amazing."

Though Tei makes use of Japanese iconography to promote his work, he still insists that the future of Japanese music is in the club scene. "Western notions of Japanese music have always revolved around Karaoke and it's not that far from the truth. But the technology available in Japan has steered artists towards dance music. It would be stupid not to take advantage of that."

*'Sushi 4004' is out on Bungalow Records on 7 September. Towa Tei's single 'German Bold Italic', featuring Kylie Minogue, is out on Coalition Records on 5 October*

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## RIFFS

THE FIRST AND LAST RECORDS BOUGHT BY JUSTIN CURRIE OF DEL AMITRI

First record: Sylvia, "Y Viva España"

This was one of those holiday records from 1972. Sylvia was lovely – very skinny, with a big, wide-brimmed hat. It was the first time I went to a shop without my big sisters, who were into the Osmonds, and me and my Dad went to Fenwick in Leicester, and looked at the Top 40. I really wanted something by David Essex, which my sisters had, so I plumped for Sylvia because I knew neither of them would like it. It was a case of sibling rivalry. And I remember my dad told me I could pick anything I liked.

I didn't show any interest in pop music until that point. The sad truth is that I did fancy her; she was one of those women that eight-year-olds fancy. I didn't really listen to radio, but had seen her on *Top of the Pops*, among groups like The Sweet

whom I didn't understand, and she was innocent and foreign. For all I know, she could have been from Scunthorpe, not Spain. Because it was this Spanish thing, it had lots of wobbly guitars, like in westerns, then after this introduction she came in singing. Although it was pre-disco, she sang over a four-to-the-floor stomp bass drum. It was jolly. But I certainly didn't dance in those days – I only discovered dancing about 10 years ago.

I think I listened to it once a day for a fortnight. It was the only record I owned, and on the B-side was one of those weird singles which had no song, but it had a groove. Instead of having a blank B-side they would have a fake one, a silent groove which is like a non-wiggly groove, so I just played three minutes of nothing.

Maybe it was a cover version



of John Cage's "Four minutes 33", which he would conduct in front of a thousand people, and was four minutes and 33 seconds of silence.

Perhaps it was avant-garde that Sylvia was into on the B-side. If you were interviewing her, she would ask if you listened to her radical stuff. Sylvia was a classic one-hit wonder, and it would have been a great Eurovision record if she had managed to get it.

Last record: Sparkdehorses, "Good Morning Spider"

I normally buy records four at a time. In my last batch, I got Sparkdehorses' second album, which, surprisingly, is really good. When a record is the flavour of the month, and gets lots of good reviews, I generally run out and buy it, and don't understand why.

I like this because I like albums which have a variety with different tempos and textures. It starts off with a poppy punk rock song then, after two minutes, descends into a downer song, after which each song is radically different from every other.

Also the lead singer has a lovely voice, similar to Tom Waits. It's like guitar music and American alternative rock. It's odd, and not predictable.

I got in to it immediately I put it on and couldn't believe it is an

improvement on the first album. It's kind of like anti-Lo Fi in the way the guys sing, but it is recorded really beautifully. There is something perverse; weird, esoteric music recorded really well is a strange combination. It should be an amateur record, but the way it is recorded and performed is incredibly well constructed. It's like a Morris Minor built by a German car maker. Or something like that, anyway.

On the sleeve notes, he thanks a hospital in London who helped him after he took some sleeping pills, and was so sedated that the circulation in his legs was cut off. He had trouble walking and performing for quite a long time.

*'Hatful of Rain: The Best of Del Amitri' is released on 7 Sept*

INTERVIEW BY  
JENNIFER ROGER



# Tall stories, tight trousers and elves

Rock Family Trees returns to our television screens tonight, with another batch of pop secret histories. James McNair celebrates the rockumentary series which reminds us that, regardless of pedigree, most bands have had their Spinal Tap moments

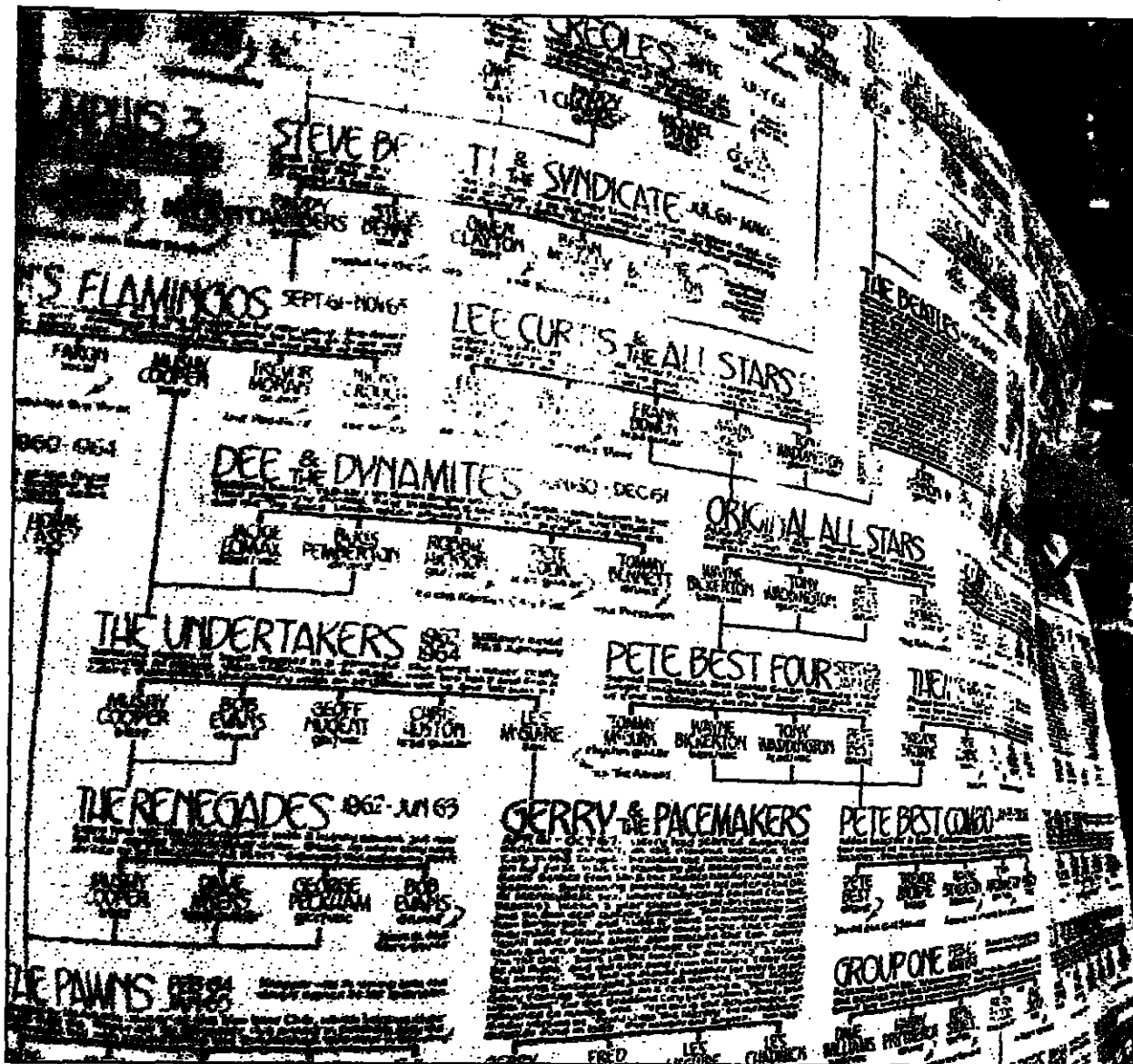
TONIGHT MARKS the return of BBC2's Rock Family Trees programme for a new six-week run.

Pete Frame, whose hand-drawn genealogical trees map the fraudtelling internal relationships of rock's institutions, has explained how this second series attempts to capitalise on the strengths of the first. "Because it's a peak-time show, the producer, Francis Hanly, and I went for people who were going to be as funny and eloquent as possible," he says. "We've tried not to make things too trainspotterish."

Though first and foremost a thoroughly researched documentary series, Rock Family Trees' judicious use of wry, anecdotal footage is one of its strengths. The programme highlights both the incestuousness and the ridiculousness of rock but with affection. It's a gentle reminder that most bands have had their Spinal Tap moments.

In "The Frog Rock Years", which centres around the careers of Yes and ELP, keyboard wizard Rick Wakeman recalls a late-Sixties gig with The Strawbs where the bands shared a bill with circus performers. "What you did was you accompanied the various acts," he remembers. "They had Arthur Brown playing for the trapeze artist and we, The Strawbs, were playing for the child jugglers. Suddenly there was a bit of a cheer from the crowd and this old boy with a handlebar moustache jumped up on stage and started waving a stick around. I thought: 'Who's this old git?' and pushed him off. The police arrested me. How was I to know it was Salvador Dali?"

With accessible, fastidiously-edited portraits of the early Sixties Merseybeat scene, the Manchester club scene which had New Order at its epicentre, and the late Sixties folk movement that spawned The Mamas and The Papas in the States, the scope of the new series is impressive. John Peel's relaxed narration links choice archive footage with interviews, while Frame's drawings - often accompanied by an appropriate montage of album artwork and memorabilia - provide ideal pit-stops for cross-referencing and plot denouements. Older, wiser, and just that little bit less precious, most artists portrayed here can laugh at themselves. Billy J Kramer, though, interviewed for



Rock garden: Pete Frame hangs another rock family tree... on a tree



John Voos

The Mersey Sound episode, seems less able to let go of old rivalries. Obviously keen to challenge the view that his own band, The Dakotas, were simply Beatles wannabes, Kramer remembers Brian Epstein giving him the original demo tape of John Lennon's "Do You Want To Know A Secret", a song with which he and The Dakotas would later score a hit. Kramer goes on to say that at the end of the demo, Lennon "sort of apologised for the quality of the song and flushed the toilet." The inference is clear.

With around 250 bands regularly gigging in and around Liverpool at the time, demand for strong original material was high. Even one of the Fab Four's finest, though, was deemed unworthy of Kramer. "Different writers have said that Paul McCartney never offered 'Yesterday' to anyone," says Kramer, "but when I was doing a summer season in Blackpool, he played it to me. I said, 'I don't like it. It's boring and I want a rock 'n' roll song.'" If Kramer seems a tad prickly, then in contrast, the former Adam

and The Ants guitarist, Marco Pirroni, is refreshingly frank about how Adam's image influenced the Ants' writing. "He's a pirate on land and he wears a good hat - that was the sort of thing," he explains in "Banshees and Other Creatures". With indisputable logic, Pirroni adds: "When you've got a song about a highwayman, it has to be called 'Stand And Deliver', and it has to go 'dum, diddle-lum, diddle-lum.'" Adam himself, alias Stuart Goddard, is less willing to trivialise his back catalogue. This tactic of

allowing sidemen to have a good giggle at the expense of their more celebrated former leaders is one which Rock Family Trees has used effectively time and again.

Cleverer still, is the way that the programme's interviewers can gently cajole musicians into talking utter nonsense with no attendant sense of irony. And when heavy metal comes under the spotlight in "Sabbath Bloody Sabbath", we're not short of examples. Witness singer Ronnie James Dio on one of the bands he was in before Rainbow and

Black Sabbath: "We just became Elf, which made sense, because we were all really small men. My cousin was barely five feet tall, and I'm like five four-and-a-half, five-five. We would come out on-stage and the audience wouldn't know what to make of these little tiny people. Then we just bludgeoned people to death with our level of power."

Like the programme on Merseybeat, tonight's snapshot of the late Sixties folk scene in Greenwich Village has value as a social history, but ultimately "California Dreamin'"

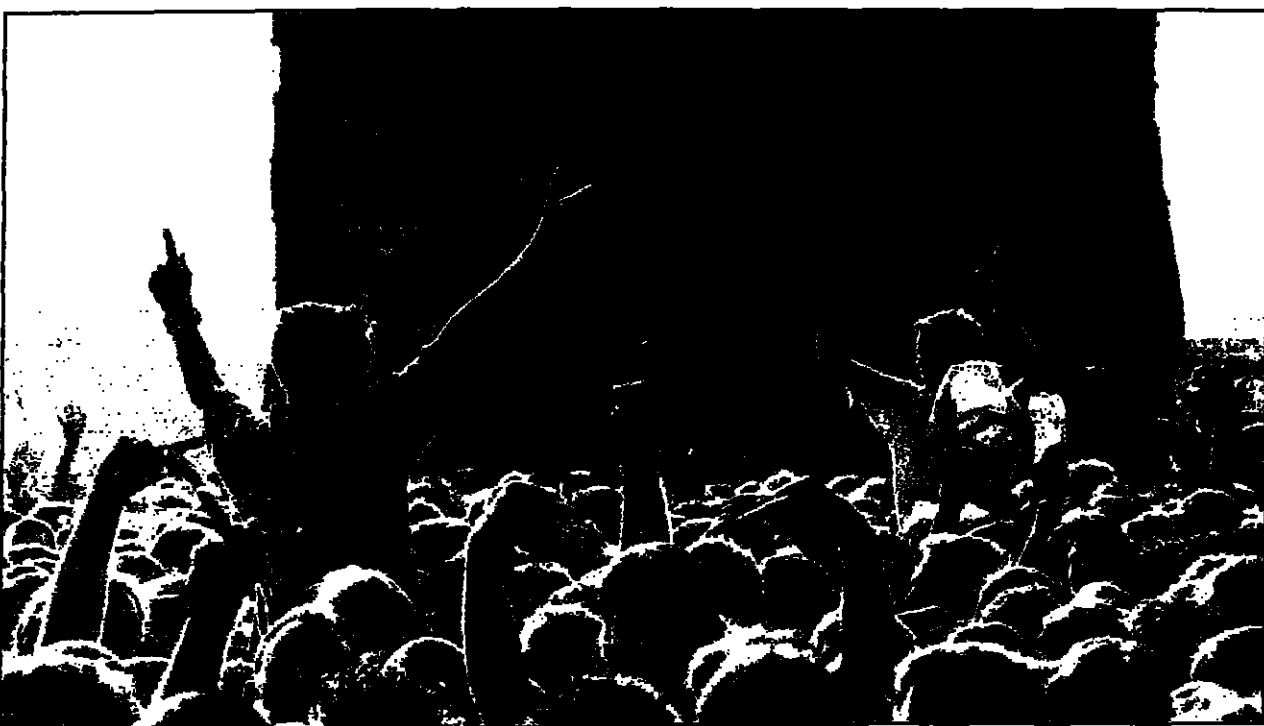
is probably the least engaging episode of this series. The Americans' reluctance to dish the dirt makes for rather safe viewing, and given the quality of the rest of the series, it's an odd place to start.

To paraphrase Mick and Keef, though, Rock Family Trees is one of the few examples of the pop documentary genre to declare: "It's only rock 'n' roll, but we like it."

Any artists approached to appear in a third series should be aware that the more self-effacing they are, the better they will come across.

## Reading and writhing

The last big rock festival of a soggy summer was no damp squib - just a little moist round the edges, say Rhiannon Batten and Richard Hill



The Reading hardcore: almost certainly not sweating over the Beastie Boys' political karma

PA

AS SATURDAY sunshine spread across the campsites circling Reading Festival, temperatures inside the arena added a certain tang to the sweat and chips vapour stockpiled from the night before.

Friday's young crowd, with their sherbet-coloured hair, henna tattoos and more metal on their body than the average tank, had been an enthusiastic and pretty well-behaved bunch, body-surfing and moshing to the sternum-crunching staccato guitars of the three smaller stages. Breaks were taken for near-end-it-all bungee jumps and visits to the friendly site cannabis-pipe trader. Later on, the same crowd stood glued 20-deep outside the Dr Martens talent-intertaining stage watching as Gomez sucked in the last joules of warmth from the air and breathed out lazy-beat Southport swamp blues. With Glastonbury '98 sinking

into another covering of chocolate milkshake mud and Mean Fiddler's Phoenix Festival cancelled after poor ticket sales, Reading Music Festival offered 1998's chance to be a festival worth turning up for. Although more than 100,000 did make the trip last weekend - enticed by a decent weather forecast and a line-up bolstered by the aforementioned cancellation - the British festival spirit still seemed a little damp round the edges.

On the main stage on Friday, Rocket from the Crypt and The Afghan Whigs, immaculate in their gangster threads, gained a good few ticket sales for their forthcoming indoor British shows, and the young rascals Ash impressed, but the smaller stages were no match for the deft presence of Page and Plant, except for the skate punk kids, who ran off bored.

What had seemed a large

crowd on Friday seemed immense on Saturday and, despite the efforts of the night-time litter patrol, the morning ground was a soft carpet of plastic forks, well-trodden chips and greasy newspapers. The queue for the toilets soon prompted people to head into the bushes. There were too many people in too small an area.

It wasn't only the ground that suffered. Despite Sunday's performances by Dee Jay Funk Roc and the maturely rehearsed but still cutting attitude of New Order - moving the twentysomethings to punch the air nostalgically - it was clear that the four music tents were too close together to give the bands what they needed to be really heard, even by festival standards.

And the music from the main stage was just too quiet to rock. Saturday's rendition of The Prodigy's "Firestarter"

whispered out more like "Fire-fighter" and the loudest sound of the weekend was probably the mid-set belch from the Foo Fighter David Grohl.

More exciting were battles waged by the performers. First Money Mark, after bringing the marquee down with his opener of Hammond stand-up funk, abandoned his set prematurely as his equipment died piece by piece.

Then word warfare raged between the two main-stage headliners after the now all-grown-up Beastie Boys requested that The Prodigy cut "Smack My Bitch Up" from their set.

Beastie Adam Yauch seemed to absorb the bad karma in his Krishna-orange boiler suit, however, and in any case, the 40,000 or so who jumped up and down to both sets were not sweating over polemics.

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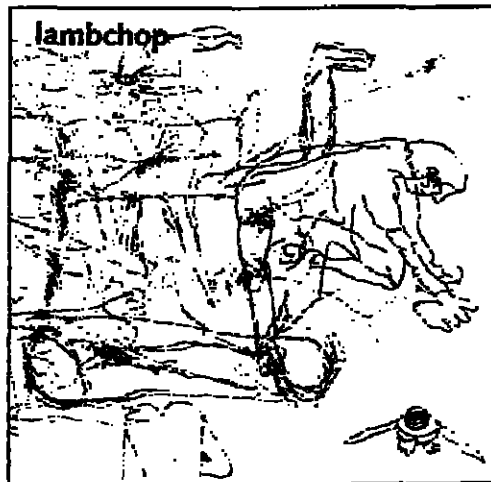
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## THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

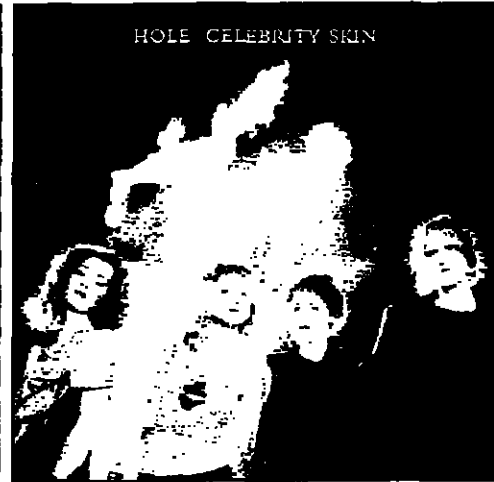
REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL



**LAMBCHOP**  
What Another Man Spills  
Gey Slang

UNHERALED in their own land, but justifiably developing a sizeable cult reputation over here, Lambchop are about as intriguing as American pop gets at the moment. Fourteen Nashville musicians based around singer-songwriter Kurt Wagner, they include an invocation to "visit the country music hall of fame in Nashville, TN" on all their album sleeves. The advice seems unlikely to be reciprocated by the country establishment, as rather than ploughing the usual furrow of bars, beers, trucks, tears and line-dancing, they use the comforting textures of the form to present sentiments that can be cruel and unusual, though never punishing. Wagner's songs return country to its roots, dealing honestly with real-life matters and emotions, and his avuncular, semi-spoken vocal style sounds like your granddaddy rapping.

There's the usual air of acquiescent mournfulness about Lambchop's subtle confusions of strings, vibes, horns and pedal steel guitar – a vast, amorphous, not quite house-trained sound. On last year's tremendous *Thriller*, they leavened their sound with a veneer of MOR muzak and avant-garde *musique concrete*. Here, it's soul music that provides the added spice, with lovely versions of Curtis Mayfield's "Give Me Your Love" and Frederick Knight's "I've Been Lonely For So Long", both delivered in a cracked falsetto that's immensely more moving than the vocal gymnastics of modern soul singers. Again, it's real music for real people.



**HOLE**  
Celebrity Skin  
Geffen

COURTNEY LOVE certainly qualifies as real people – sometimes alarmingly so – and on *Celebrity Skin* she comes closer than ever before to real music. It has already been widely surmised – not least, one suspects, by Billy Corgan – that this might have something to do with the presence of Billy Corgan among the credits. You can certainly hear his dabs all over "Hit So Hard", that ruthless sense he has of how to draw the epic out of the merely ponderous. But it's not so much the music as the lyrics which impress here, and perhaps stung by the suggestion that Kurt Cobain may have written parts of *Live Through This*, Courtney has pointedly claimed sole responsibility for them.

It couldn't really be any other way: Love is her own muse and her own canvas, constantly hacking away at the psychological baggage she drags around. She makes disarming, pre-emptive strikes – "She obliterated everything she kissed/Now she's fading/somewhere in Hollywood" – and wields parody with subtlety, most movingly when she asserts: "Miles and miles of perfect skin/I swear I do, I fit right in."

Surely, the lady doth protest too much. In her lyrical craft, and in Love's search for some kind of primal redemption, the influence of Patti Smith is clear – there's even some stuff about horses galloping away through "Heaven Tonight". It's a comparison she bears with some distinction.



**MANSUN**  
Six  
Parlophone

IT'S ENOUGH to make you weep. Having been hailed last year as the most likely saviours of the good ship Britpop, Mansun have gone ahead and succumbed spectacularly to the Second Album Syndrome with *Six*, as over-egged a pudding as has been heard in years.

The title-track sets the tone, with a brand of diffuse prog-rock which never allows the song to get established before seeking out new directions, wandering all over the place for eight seemingly interminable minutes, and further obscuring its purpose with pointless vocal effects. The riff, such as it is, sounds like a cross between Supergrass and Smashing Pumpkins – a resemblance accentuated by Paul Draper's voice, which shares some of Billy Corgan's sneaky self-regard.

As usual with the Second Album Syndrome, *Six* is the product of too much giggling and not enough disciplined songwriting. There are no instantly memorable tunes like "Stripper Vicar" or "Wide Open Space" here. Instead of devising strong melodies and secure song structures, Mansun rely on muso flash and accretion, adding new storeys before foundations are firm, and using tarty ornate cladding to disguise the fatal imperfections.

Some of their ideas, too, are simply dreadful – "Fall Out", for instance, is simply the "Dance Of The Sugar-Plum Fairy" laden with excess and ill-fitting baggage. What a mess.

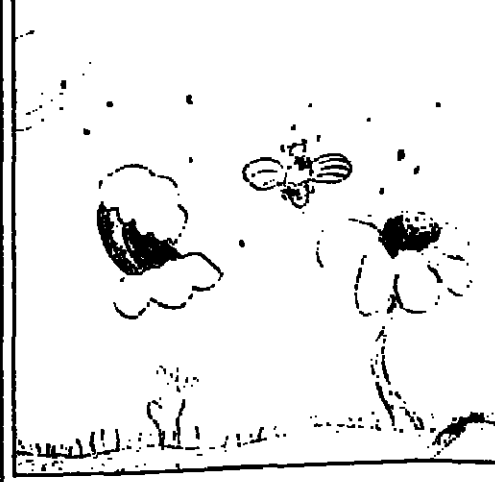


**WILLIE NELSON**  
Teatro  
Island

LIKE EMMYLOU Harris – who appears as backing vocalist on the majority of these 14 tracks, as it happens – Willie Nelson has opted for the warm and welcoming depth of a Daniel Lanois production on his latest album. Gently occupying the spaces around Nelson's characteristically dry and minimal vocal, it's a match so congruent that it seems extraordinary they've never worked together before. The drums are a touch obtrusive on one or two tracks, but for the most part Lanois captures just the right atmosphere.

As with its predecessor, 1996's *Spirit*, there's a pronounced Spanish feel to *Teatro*, which blends new songs like "Everywhere I Go" and "I've Loved You All Over The World" with earlier Nelson compositions such as "Darkness On The Face Of The Earth" and "My Own Peculiar Way", several of which date from the break-up of his marriage in the early Sixties. "I Never Cared For You" is a notable stand-out: the title is a lie, of course, poorly disguising the depth of feeling in lines such as "The sun is filled with ice and gives no warmth at all".

"Home Motel", too, is a strikingly spare, empty room, furnished with just a few sparse phrases of vision and Nelson's desolate voice. The introductory version of Django Reinhardt's "Ou Es Tu, Mon Amour?", meanwhile, ably demonstrates the enduring flexibility of this country legend's 65-year-old digits.



**PLUSH**  
More You Become You  
(Domino WGCDS01)

LIAM HAYES raised perhaps unreasonable expectations with his previous Plush singles, "Three Quarter Blind Eyes" and "No Education", which suggested a post-mod symphonic-pop sensibility in the Eric Matthews vein, trying to breed new blooms from old grafts of Bacharach, Wilson and Jimmy Webb.

On this half hour of sometimes stupefying piano balladry, his focus narrows to the latter, with a startlingly accurate impersonation of the great songwriter's over-extended croak. But that's as far as the comparison goes: for despite all borrowing a few of his chords, Plush songs seem to go out of their way to avoid the magnetic melodiousness of Webb's compositions.

Instead, these desultory smudges of songs slip by unnoticed, a rainy day's worth of weary reveries, drifting into each other imperceptibly, with no variation in style, attitude or tempo (funereal) to separate them save for the addition of a mournful French horn on "Save The People". Some songs, such as "(See It In The) Early Morning", have a bit more humming in them – but alas, that doesn't in itself make them any more hummable. It is, quite frankly, torture. Eventually, the self-indulgent veil of misery in which Hayes cloaks his musings settles over the album like a shroud, and you become acutely and intensely aware of just how long a half-hour can be.

## It's a sweet song of misery

Singer-songwriter Elliott Smith's existential tales of life and love not only win Oscar nominations but also bring out the mother in the best of crowds. By James McNair

WHEN DIRECTOR Gus Van Sant used a number of Elliott Smith songs in his film *Good Will Hunting*, the blend of music and cinematography was potent enough to draw comparisons with Simon & Garfunkel's soundtrack for *The Graduate*. "Miss Misery" was Oscar-nominated, and when Smith – who looks more like a dustman than a Hollywood bigwig – performed the song at the awards ceremony, Jack Nicholson was sitting just 10 feet away. His performance at Dingwalls must have been a night less daunting for him.

On his latest album, *XO*, Smith uses Mellotron, vibes

and tack piano to widen his predominantly acoustic palette. So for tonight's gig, support act Quasi (drummer Janet Weiss and bass player/guitarist Sam Coombs) were on hand to help the Brooklyn-based troubadour give the fuller treatment to the more orchestrated of these arrangements.

Wearing an old, blue beanie hat and a paint-splashed T-shirt, at times Smith looked genuinely thrilled by the music he and his band were making. With his awkward smile and bottomless sack of fine, wistful songs, it was also easy to account for his disproportionately female audience. Most

girls warm to a poet that they can mother.

Though there's a classicism and easy grace to Smith's material, reminiscent of Paul Simon, *Reverend-era* Beatles or Alex Chilton's best work with Big Star, his songs clearly reflect a darker, more existentially challenged soul. By performing all his tunes on a crunchy electric guitar, rather than an acoustic one, though, he seemed keen to subvert the "sensitive-folky" image with which he's been branded.

The music is one thing, but Smith the man is another. After "Rose Parade", one fan shouted "I hope you realise that's

one of the best songs of the last 20 years!" Clearly embarrassed by this unbridled flattery, Smith eventually mumbled, "well, I'm glad you think so". This brought out the mothering instincts again, and in a moment redolent of an animation sequence from *Ally McBeal*, I could easily imagine several doe-eyed girls nearby metamorphosing into big, broody hens.

Characters in the city-life cameos Smith has recently taken to writing in Brooklyn bars often sound lost, confused or defeated. "Waltz No.2", a sweetly clunking half-ballad which cleverly referenced The

Everly Brothers' "Cathy's Clown" was a case in point, its protagonist "staring into space like a dead china doll". "Independence Day", based on a sweet, almost ragtime-sounding guitar figure, was something of a contrast, though. Juxtaposing the human lifespan with that of a butterfly, the gist of its more ebullient sentiment was that, though it might seem as though we only live for a day, "It's brilliant anyway".

He encoored with an impromptu cover of The Beatles' "I'm Only Sleeping" and forgot the words. But nobody seemed to mind.



Elliott Smith, a troubadour who looks more like a dustman

'WAY OUT WEST'  
'THE MUSIC BOX''SONS OF THE DESERT'  
'HELPMATES'

BOTH FEATURES SHOWING  
AT CINEMAS FROM

4th SEPTEMBER



AN EDITORIAL penned by an editor-in-chief of a hip hop magazine claims Fugees' rapper Wyclef Jean threatened the editor of a competitor with a gun. Allen Gordon, from *Rap Pages* magazine, says that Wyclef didn't admit to pulling a gun and argues his body language said the contrary. He says that, after asking the rapper three times if he threatened *Blaze* editor Jesse Washington over an LP review he planned to run, Wyclef Jean shrugged and nodded the fourth time. It wouldn't stand up to journalistic integrity never mind the law – but was evidence for the editor to declare: "I can't let Wyclef get away with something that actually did happen." A spokesperson for Wyclef said that his shrugged response was not an admission but a reaction to having already answered the question repeatedly.

GERI HALLIWELL, aka Ginger Spice – or is it the other way round – has appointed Brits executive producer Lisa Anderson as her manager. Anderson has never been involved in artist management before and it is thought Geri's music career will not be a priority.

Meanwhile, Virgin Records has got tough on the tabloid exposés on the Spice babies. Following an article in the *Daily Mail* which claimed the reported pregnancies had sparked fury among record label executives, it has served lawsuits on the *Daily Mail* and *The Mirror*. Virgin has accepted an apology from *The Sun*.



THE MUSIC festivals scrambled for a crowd-pulling slant this year and, some would say, they quite simply failed to come up smelling of roses. But a completely new festival might pull it off. The all-night "Location Apollo" concert will be staged on a specially constructed stage in the shadow of the Jodrell Bank Space Observatory on 17 October. The performance is being held to promote the new Apollo fragrance. Acts include old school hip hoppers Run DMX, along with Space and Republica, and the likes of Carl Cox, Danny Rampling and Judge Jules behind the decks.

Meanwhile, a band who benefited from the summer festivals, New Order, have been confirmed to play a New Year's Eve gig at London's Alexandra Palace in the wake of their reunion

## SLEEVE NOTES

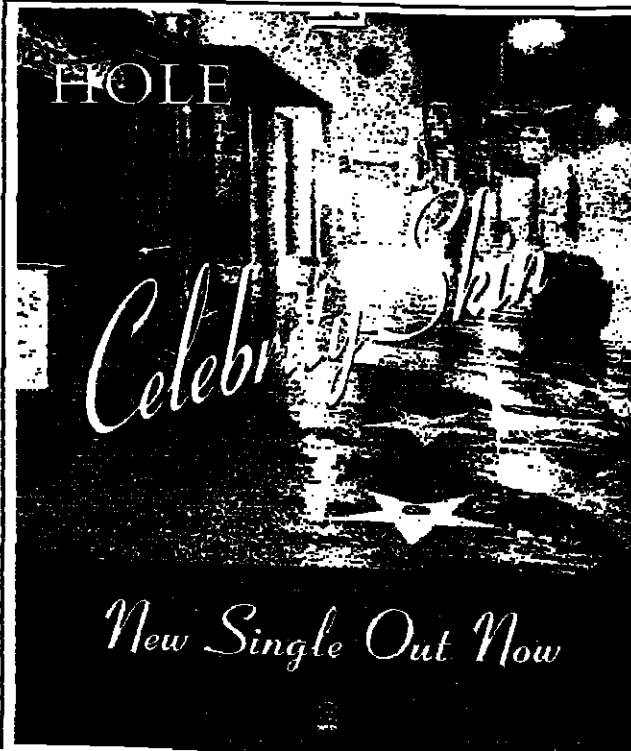
WHO COULD have predicted that Madonna would find a passion for town planning? Well, it would seem that she has, the former Material Girl having recently filed a law suit against the YMCA in an attempt to try and stop it from building a high-rise residential tower near the Lincoln Center in New York. Madonna claims that the building creates a "hazard for me and my child" and is using the recent fall of scaffolding at a Times Square high-rise renovation as grounds for her suit.

FORMER EURYTHMIC and award-winning producer Dave Stewart is following on the heels of David Bowie

with the launch of his own website (Davestewart.com). The site will be the first to offer Stewart's new album, aptly called *Sty-fi*, over a month before it's first official release dates. The site is also hosting a monthly *Sty-fi* TV special, which will have a kooky collage of video and art, featuring guests ranging from Lou Reed and Bob Dylan to Demi Moore and late LSD guru, Timothy Leary.

Out in cyberspace, Geffen Records is also offering free downloads of the title track from Hole's forthcoming album "Celebrity Skin" ([www.geffen.com/hole/](http://www.geffen.com/hole/))

JENNIFER RODGER





# Swing it, cut it and can it

Jazz has long enjoyed an artistic relationship with the movies – must be something to do with the light, and the way jazz confers a cool atmosphere on everything it touches. So which are the best jazz sound track albums around? And who is the jazz Truffaut? By Phil Johnson

JUST AS much film music routinely aspires to the condition of jazz, many jazz compositions sound as if they were written especially for the title sequence of a film that somehow failed to get made. Thelonious Monk's famous tune "Round Midnight" remains the great film noir theme that never was, its brooding atmospherics crying out for a visual accompaniment of dark, rain-slicked, city streets puddled with neon. It had to wait until 1986 and Bertrand Tavernier's film of the same name to make the opening credits (in an arrangement by Herbie Hancock), although David Meeker's train-spotter's bible *Jazz In The Movies* informs you that it can also be heard, played by Monk's quartet with Gerry Mulligan, in Peter Hall's screen adaptation of Harold Pinter's *The Homecoming* from 1973.

The cinematic spirit of Monk is invoked in the rather otiose translated sleeve notes to a remarkable new album by the Italian pianist and composer Rita Marcotulli. *The Woman Next Door* (Label Bleu) is a musical tribute to the films of François Truffaut, and it's one of the best albums of the year so far. Apart from Jean Constant's original theme for *Les 400 Coups*, and two songs by Charles Trenet, the material is all Marcotulli's own, and it doesn't so much illustrate the films as evoke recurring themes and motifs, such as innocence, escape and the limitations of language.

As music, it's very varied, ranging from the opening track's gentle fusion (which recalls Wayne Shorter's *Native Dancer*), to a nearly atonal piano solo, to the accordion-heavy traditions of French cabaret and chanson, but despite this the album manages to work very well as a kind of suite. It's played mainly by a series of small ensembles drawn from a large group of Italian and French musicians, which includes the trumpeter Enrico Rava and the drummer Aldo Romano (who also sings, most affectingly). There's a few rather chewy, free-ish, moments but mostly it's beautifully light, intelligent, rhapsodic work and a perfect counterpart to Truffaut's own heart-on-sleeve, emphatically humanist, approach. The album ends with a recording of Truffaut's voice which leads into a brief piano improvisation on the alien's theme from *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, the film by Steven Spielberg in which Truffaut played the role of the benevolent scientist. Like the best of Truffaut, it's an unashamedly emotional, three-hanky-weepee, moment.



Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie and Art Blakey together with period songs by Ella Fitzgerald and the Andrews Sisters, an original score by Tyler Bates, and a few contributions from current Blue Note artists.

There are more accorions on the release of Gato Barbieri's wonderful score for Bernardo Bertolucci's *Last Tango in Paris* (Rykodisc), which has been deleted for years. It's one of the best of all jazz soundtracks, and the combination of the Argentinian saxophonist's sand-blasted tone with the swirling strings of the orchestra and those deceptively cheery squeeze-boxes remains compelling listening. Lush, romantic tangos are mixed with Latin jazz solos wherein Barbieri's keening wail sounds more than ever like a small mammal suffering extremes of pain. The soundtrack album was a re-recording of the original score as used in the film, but the reissue also includes *The Last Tango in Paris Suite*, a series of 28 musical cues taken from the actual soundtrack of the film. They're all very brief, but the music is often even more intensely passionate than on the original album.

The soundtrack album for the recent Beat Generation movie, *The Last Time I Committed Suicide* (Blue Note), mixes old bop tracks by Monk, Mingus, Max Roach,

marimba and intended to invoke the spirit of Mayan music. The results are strange, but very effective. So too is *The Professional: The Best of Laurie Johnson* (Redial). Although the ethnic coordinates of the veteran composer's 21 television and film themes are fixed throughout on the Home Counties, the contents remain – perhaps surprisingly – consistently interesting, whether considered as anthropology or music. And it has to be both really. Original themes for *The Avengers*, old and new, *The Professionals*, *Jason King*, *This Is Your Life* and a stunning adaptation of Ravel's *Bolero*, sound



'Last Tango in Paris' (MSI), left, and Thelonious Monk, the godfather of jazz soundtracks (William Gottlieb)

better than any recording that features the Mike Sammes Singers has a right to. The composer gets to stretch out a bit more on the companion release, *The Musical Worlds of Laurie Johnson* (Redial), which features three suites written in a classical vein, but this has to be one for the seriously committed, while anyone can enjoy high-kicking, Mrs. Peel-style, to *The Avengers*.

Finally, although it's more ambient or techno than jazz, *Suck It And See* (Pussyfoot) by the various artists of the Pussyfoot posse – who include the cult mixer and producer Howie B – is dedicated to the proposition that porn movies are the new

rock 'n' roll. Dialogue samples from sleazy Seventies British porn movies; deconstructions of continually climactic themes (some of which sound remarkably like Laurie Johnson), and the odd attempt at old bedroom-soul are bricolaged with drum-machine beats to create a disconcerting soundtrack for the late-night activities of libidinous clubbers. Like most dance compilations, the two CDs go on and on, keeping it up long past the point where you'd be happy to settle for a cup of cocoa and a cuddle, but as a bit of post-coital slap and tickle they're amusing enough. They're also seriously obscene.

## THE CHARTS

### TOP 10 US SINGLES

- | TITLE & ARTIST                              |
|---|
| 1 I Don't Want To Miss A Thing<br>Aerosmith |
| 2 The First Night<br>Monica                 |
| 3 Crush<br>Jennifer Paige                   |
| 4 My Way<br>Usher                           |
| 5 The Boy Is Mine<br>Brandy & Monica        |
| 6 You're Still The One<br>Shania Twain      |
| 7 Adia<br>Sarah McLachlan                   |
| 8 Daydreamin'<br>Tatyana                    |
| 9 Never Ever<br>All Saints                  |
| 10 When The Lights Go Out<br>Five           |

### TOP 10 UK SINGLES

- | TITLE & ARTIST                                   |
|--|
| 1 No Matter What<br>Boyzone                      |
| 2 If You Tolerate This<br>Manic Street Preachers |
| 3 Music Sounds Better With You<br>Stardust       |
| 4 One For Sorrow<br>Steps                        |
| 5 What Can I Do?<br>The Corrs                    |
| 6 To The Moon And Back<br>Savage Garden          |
| 7 Everything's Gonna Be Alright<br>Sweetbox      |
| 8 Mysterious Times<br>Sash!                      |
| 9 Real Good Time<br>Aida                         |
| 10 Finally Found<br>Honeyz                       |

## Auntie gets down on the dancefloor

The BBC fully embraces dance music as the new rock 'n' roll (at last). By Jennifer Rodger

TO ANY regular clubber, the Radio One Essential Mix at the Brighton Conference Rooms presented a familiar scene: mind-bending visuals, tanned clubbers, glam girls with their knickers exposed and big name DJs spinning the tunes. But hang on a minute – good old Auntie presiding over what amounted to a rave? The recent tabloid outrage over Radio One's coverage of some of Ibiza's wilder club nights is a bit of a red herring too – the real question is: "What's dance music done to pop music?"

It's only been a few years since the BBC extended their definition of "popular music" beyond the likes of Sonia and Jason Donovan. Under the much-criticised revolution instigated by former Radio One Controller, Matthew Bannister, the station has increased its dance music coverage from just a few hours a week in the early Nineties to a staggering 34 hours today. Despite plummeting listening figures, the station ought still to be considered the de facto arbiter of what constitutes pop music. Up until about 1992, Radio One

more or less ignored the dance music scene that had not only filled fields and warehouses across the country but also tabloid front pages.

That the Beeb for a long time chose not to acknowledge the biggest underground music development since punk was everyone's loss. After all, the last 10 years have proved that dance music has the traits of virtually every previous youth cult: the anti-authoritarianism of early rock 'n' roll; the idealism of flower power; the hedonism of rock and the DIY ethic of punk. According to the station's music policy in the late Eighties and early Nineties, however, the only specialist listening beyond the rump of sugary pop was a smattering of soul, a dollop of heavy metal, the odd bit of reggae and John Peel sitting over the leftovers.

In one respect at least, the hubbub over Radio One's presence in Ibiza illustrates that dance music has usurped, for the time being at least, the hedonism with which pop groups were traditionally associated – the tabloids have fallen on salacious accounts of

libidinous goings-on in the Balearics and Sky is even screening an Ibiza Special focusing on Radio One's jam on the party island.

Back in the slightly less glamorous surroundings of Brighton last weekend, Auntie appeared to have done its homework with a faultless line-up of DJ talent on offer: Danny Rampling, Judge Jules, Grooverider and LTJ Bukem. In terms of a live pop gig, though, it looked more like a lager-strewn Eighties' disco in a venue which usually plays host to sales conferences and graduation ceremonies. Even on the terms in which clubbers have mythologised the genesis of the dance scene, it was hardly an alcohol-free carnival in a disused warehouse. Not a temporary autonomous zone in sight, in fact.

The evening's eclectic line-up provided other clues as to how pop is trying to absorb the assault of the multi-million pound dance music industry. Alongside crowd-pulling DJs were up-and-coming live bands. Your mum would recognise Monkey Mafia and the Lo-Fidelity Allstars as pop

groups but they, like other smaller acts here tonight, owe their existence largely to dance music. The DJs took top billing, however, and it's a measure of their power that Pete Tong and Judge Jules (who along with other Radio One DJs made his name at the dance-orientated Kiss FM) are allowed to choose their play list for their Radio One shows – a privilege indeed in the strictly regulated studios of BBC Radio.

Star DJs have been increasingly common in what was once a collective scene priding itself on anonymity and last Saturday's DJs literally found themselves on pedestals. However, various attempts to recreate the excitement of a proper live gig – in particular the organisers tried to rouse the audience with a placard announcing hit tunes on the decks – fell flat.

A less than successful synthesis, then. Perhaps the Beeb will never fully be able to appropriate what remains a thriving underground phenomenon. Until then, Mohamed, it seems, will continue to demand the presence of the mountain.

## Music to stare into the distance to

EVEN IF the songs weren't as great as they are, Mojave 3 would still deserve a lengthy ovation for contrariness above and beyond the call of duty.

The band's vocalists, Neil Halstead and Rachel Goswell, spent their formative years in Slowdive, making records which consisted largely of feedback and mumbling about clouds. Strange though it now seems, Slowdive personified an entire era in indie rock – the grim, pre-BritPop early Nineties. They were the depressing apotheosis of the we-just-do-it-for-ourselves-really-and-if-anyone-else-likes-it-it's-a-bonus ethic, where doing anything so showmanlike as actually peering through your fringe at the audience every seventh song was regarded as a bit, you know, flash.

Mojave 3, Halstead and Goswell's new incarnation, have rarely been in danger of attracting comparisons to

POP  
MOJAVE 3  
BORDERLINE, LONDON

Van Halen, but they no longer look faintly embarrassed about being on stage. There again, there's no reason why they should. They're about to release their second fine album – the inaccurately titled *Out of Tune* – in two attempts, and the venue is absurdly full. This doubtless looks encouraging from the stage, but it's not much fun a few rows back. The Borderline is okay as far as hot, crowded, airless, smoke-filled basements go, but it is entirely unsuitable for Mojave 3 and their gently rocking country laments.

Halstead's fine songs are reflective, contemplative, the kind of thing you listen to in those bleak, lost, staring-

into-the-middle-distance early hours when, say, AC/DC's *Back in Black* just isn't going to do the trick.

Live, they would be best appreciated somewhere where you can sit down, and not have to struggle to hear over the incessant yammerings of the rest of the audience, who seem to be having just as much trouble keeping their attention focused on the stage.

There are five of Mojave 3, including former Chapterhouse guitarist Simon Rowe, and they are joined for some of tonight's nine-song set by BJ Cole, the pedal steel player who has recently been appearing with The Verve. (An incestuous camaraderie appears to be developing among musicians who can recall the days before Oasis walked the earth – Halstead also plays guitar in Bernard Butler's band.) With one exception ("This Road I'm Travelling"), all the

songs they play are from the forthcoming album, which suggests a certain confidence, and fair enough, too.

While no meaningful stylistic leap has taken place since the debut – the oft-cited comparisons to Nick Drake, Cowboy Junkies and Gram Parsons remain valid – Halstead sounds more comfortable than previously.

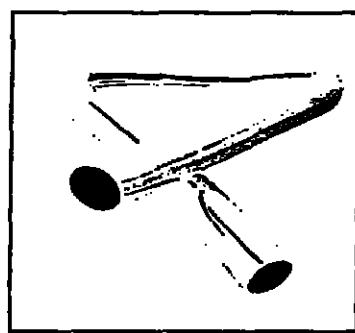
In parts, particularly on the finale, the glorious "Baby's Coming Home", he even looks it – and, suddenly, so do the rest of them.

If Mojave 3 can start to find it in themselves to throw themselves into their performances like this a little more, they may be able to carry venues like this. Until then, they will remain an oddity, albeit a treasurable one – a country band whose natural setting is the studio.

ANDREW MUELLER

## LYRIC SHEETS

MARTIN NEWELL



Mike Oldfield launches 'Tubular Bells 3' at Horse Guards Parade tonight. The latest instalment of his instrumental opus is released this month, and features a dance beat and techno bassline underpinning the more familiar tubular bells.

### Tubular Bells Revisited

**Tubular Bells**  
In Horse Guards Parade  
Across St. James's Park  
The sound drifts over Downing St.  
In damp autumnal dark  
Reverberates in Admiralty  
Across the roofs to Treasury  
As somewhere in the M.O.D.  
A middle-aged clerk  
Remembering the record  
Pauses for a second

**Tubular Bells?**  
In Horse Guards Parade?  
When he was in his prime  
The only sounds in Whitehall  
Were cars and Big Ben's chime  
And if it all seems strange somehow  
When summer's gone you must allow  
That it gets late much earlier now  
Good Lord, is that the time?  
The piece went on forever  
In those days it was clever

**Tubular Bells**  
In Horse Guards Parade  
An added beat with techno bass  
The scoundrel's last resort  
But in September's clammy fist  
Reminds one of *The Exorcist*  
Forgive me, That's your train you've missed  
No acid – mine's a port  
It's churlish to decry it  
My son may go and buy it

Deutsche Grammophon and a chic hi-fi firm are pushing out the boat. By Robert Cowan

## Now it's bang up to date

THE FASHIONABLE marriage of lifestyle and classical music was newly consummated in Edinburgh on Sunday when, at Leith Harbour on board the lavishly attired liner *Seabourn Pride*, Deutsche Grammophon consolidated a "corporate partnership" with Seabourn Cruise line, and the Danish audio-visual company Bang & Olufsen.

The partnership will yield a "themed cruise" in the spring of 1999 (where DG will host some of their most prestigious artists), and a specially prepared six-CD set for sale in B&O's retail outlets.

Another CD initiative centres on *The Art of Seduction*, a lavishly presented single-disc package which, like the multi-disc set, "will be presented to the public with the latest Bang & Olufsen technology", the "latest" being B&O's minimalist BeoSound 9000 CD Player. What a pity DG's pioneer of the techno-classical revolution, the late Herbert von Karajan, wasn't around to see it.

If there is any truth to the rumour that classical music sits more comfortably among the affluent classes, then B&O UK's marketing manager, Graeme Taylor, will have his work cut out. "We need to explore the myriad possibilities that are open to us," he told me, fresh from attending a promotional mini-concert where the violinist Augustin Dumay raced headlong into a Brahms sonata. "We're thinking in terms of product placement within theatres or concert halls, so concert-goers can explore B&O."

Deutsche Grammophon's president, Karsten Witt, spoke of his company as being essential "future orientated", and he prides himself on the "beautiful CD packaging" that finds a rough parallel in B&O's sleek, decidedly futuristic designs. Both product ranges are traditionally highly priced, but will the principle of selling premium-price CDs



Jian Wang, above left, performs on the liner. Violinist Augustin Dumay, above right, is involved in promoting the partnership



in a hi-fi shop anger local CD retailers who are trying to shift the same titles? "We have to face a differentiating of the market-place," replies Witt, somewhat guardedly.

Competitive trading is rarely a comfortable subject for discussion, least of all for the man in charge. "Maybe things were easier when you had just the one record shop in town," he adds. "I mean by that your shop, a place where you could listen, get advice, and so on. But times have changed; nowadays

people buy their records at very different kinds of places.

Witt fancies the idea of selling discs in a "boutique-style" shopping environment. Plainly, the gentleman's not for darning down. But is this just another ploy to help prop up a tottering market? And is it really the way forward?

Listening among us in the ship's lounge were patrons of the current cruise, mostly elderly and prone to doze. And yet, one performance in particular held their attention. Cel-

list Jian Wang told us of a blind Chinese street musician who learned of reflected moonlight from his mother; then wrote a song about it. Wang played us the song unaccompanied, and everyone sat spellbound.

You see, that's how the big-time hits work. Directness. Simplicity. Sincerity. Human interest (think of Gorecki's girl in a Gestapo cell, Bryars's homeless singer, Heligot's half-cock antics and Kennedy's punk protests). The rest is, with due respect to Seabourn, plain sailing.



## Modern tempos

Raymond Monelle reviews the best and the worst from the Edinburgh Festival

IN A world of cheapjack trivia, the music of Pierre Boulez seems like an island of purity. This kind of Modernism is never a portrayal of anything, never merely picturesque or pretty. Occasionally in the monumental *Pli selon pli*, performed by the vibrant soprano Valérie Anderson with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, you hear familiar sounds such as the clamour of a beltry or the rippling of water. But this music is always a doing before it is a picturing, a working out of possibilities in a rational musical world. The conductor, Martyn Brabbins, gave a practical, no-nonsense account of the piece, his excellent musicians mastering the difficulties with a great deal of sang-froid. It was an inspiring achievement.

Even if audiences were not always large, it was good that this weekend of modern music took place in the Edinburgh Festival's main venue, the Usher Hall. The previous evening, Boulez himself had directed a concert of progressive music from the whole span of the 20th century, his own Ensemble Intercontemporain flashing and sparking in the virile, forthright *Intégrales* of Varèse, witty and wry in the gurgling Chamber Concerto of Ligeti. Laura Aikin was the seraphic soloist in Stravinsky's *Japanese Lyrics*.

In the final concert of the group, Alain Daniéles mooched around the stage as soloist in Elliott Carter's *Clarinet Concerto*, and David Robertson directed the ensemble in two world premieres. Boulez's *Sur Incises* is an expansion for chamber group of his own *Incises* for piano; the cascading virtuosity survives in this new work, in which three pianists and three harps, with an array of percussion, maintain rhythm through a network of enormous complexity.

The other new work, Philippe Manoury's *Fragments pour un portrait*, seemed to summarise the history of Modernism as well as pointing to a post-Modern future. The

primitive atmospheres of Stravinsky led to traces of dance and ritual and to grinding, swirling and veering textures that were strongly visual.

The Festival Chorus, sung by the bad reviews they received for earlier concerts, pulled out all the stops in Brahms's *Deutsches Requiem*. The Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra did not impress; the strings were anaemic and there were mishaps in the wind. However, Jukka-Pekka Saraste proved to be the right conductor for the job. He began in a broad tempo, heavy with sadness, but soon his explosive and ferocious rhythms brought out the mighty power of the chorus, and he pressed them mercilessly to greater and greater outbursts.

Ryan Terfel, having withdrawn from his earlier Festival commitments, was at last present for this concert. His terrific rhetoric was worthy of a Wagnerian god, and was balanced by the more serious, detached soprano of Karita Mattila.

In earlier concerts, the Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century presented a sorry spectacle. Bands of "authentic" instruments can sound sparkly and flavoursome, but the dulcivater has not been invented that is as dull as this outfit.

Best was the rather inconsequential ballet music from Rameau's *Nois*; Beethoven's *Eroica* Symphony fell flat, and in a soporific evening of Mendelssohn only Thomas Zehetmair's *al fresco* account of the Violin Concerto had any life, though the conductor, Frans Brüggen, gave all the wrong tempos. His attempts to sabotage the Italian Symphony were, unfortunately, successful.

A performance of Wolf's *Spanisches Liedersbuch* by the instinctive, charming Amanda Roocroft and the jovial Olaf Bar could have been one of the Festival's glowing pearls. It was vitiated by a wrong choice of venue, with a tiny audience in the Usher Hall, the voices faded into the vast empty space, all intimacy lost.

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# The music outlives the murder

AS EMMA Thompson is bursting to tell us, she's making a film about the Chilean singer-songwriter, Victor Jara: hence the concert she's shooting at the Festival Hall on Sunday. But now is the time to praise Victor Jara, for it's 25 years to the month since he was machine-gunned down by Pinochet's thugs, after days of torture during which his hands and wrists were methodically smashed. His weapon was the guitar, silencing him, and banning his records after his death, was part of the fascist regime's sacred mission.

This week sees the release of a Jara compilation called *Manifesto* (ESMCD 6667), plus the re-publication of his widow Joan Jara's biography, *Victory: An Unfinished Song*, which she has brought up-to-date (Bloomsbury £7.99). And if you read her harrowing tale – ideally in conjunction with the four-CD box set *Victor Jara Complete* (Piano 88747) – you may begin to understand why this glorious performer mesmerised his generation, and why Pinochet was so desperate to liquidate him.

Jara was born poor and stayed poor: every ounce of his energy went into his campaign to improve the lot of Chile's peasantry. He was a Communist in the idealistic Latin American sense of the word: a man of action, not ideology, who was always ready to roll up his sleeves and labour with the people he loved. And about whom he sang, for the songs are as much a social chronicle as an autobiography. A chance encounter was enough to set him off – a weaver he met by a lake, a sick child dumped at the door of the college where he taught – and the lyrics are lovely poems in their own right. Moreover, he knew how to find the universal in the intimate. One of his most famous songs – "Te recuerdo, Amanda" – contained, says Joan Jara, "both his mother's smile and the promise of his daughter's youth".

The limp label "protest-singer" undersells him grossly, but it accurately describes the song he wrote on hearing of the massacred squatters in Puerto Montt: he named names, and pointed the finger. And as the bourgeoisie mobilised to crush Allende, so the Chilean Song Movement of which he was leader became inexorably politicised. One of his most haunting works, inspired by the murder of a friend in a peace-



MICHAEL CHURCH

*Jara was a man of action who rolled up his sleeves to labour with the people he loved and sang about*

ful demonstration, was an oblique prophecy of his own death, though the way that came – the soldiers hated him as the Spanish fascists had hated Lorca – was infinitely more terrible. The last track of *Victor Jara: Manifesto* is a reading of his final poem, scribbled on a piece of paper and scumpled out of the sports stadium where his body was broken. "What I see, I have never seen..." Listen to these words, then listen to his warm and vibrant voice in happier days.

As I found on a recent research trip to Chile, the battle Jara fought is far from won. Musicians told me of their residual fear of the army, which still looms like a ghostly threat after eight years of quasi-democracy. Opera is thriving, thanks to Pinochet's insistence that Chile should compete in the international league, but other forms of music are desperately marginalised. A whole generation of writers, film-makers, and musicians were forced into exile after 1973: for two decades culture came to a halt. "We have been effectively lobotomised," said one. "Our task is to recover our communal memory."

NOW TO pianistic events, which are hotting up for the autumn. Those within striking distance of Blackheath Concert Halls this weekend have the chance to sample a unique festival in which every aspect of the piano is being explored. Meanwhile, Glasgow prepares to host the new

and thriving Scottish International Piano Competition (Sept 10-19). And on 17 September, the most remarkable documentary ever made about a pianist – *Richter: The Enigma* – is being screened at the Barbican.

Whereon hangs a tale. This film may be long and serious, but that hasn't stopped it winning prizes, nor has it deterred European TV networks from buying the right to show it. But the British networks have turned it contemptuously down: par for the course, given the philistine dimwits who currently rule the television roost. So it's nice to be able to report that it's now available as a Warner video.

For piano fans with a longer purse – and longer sleeves – next week sees the launch of something momentous: a 200-CD collection from Philips called *Great Pianists of the 20th Century*. According to Philip's director of repertoire, Tom Deacon: "We realised that at the end of the century we should look at how piano playing has changed, and we decided to expand the idea beyond the Polygram labels." And so, for the first time ever, the big labels are sinking their differences in a joint venture. Everybody who is – or was – anybody is here, with the oldest being Paderewski and the youngest (by a mile) Evgeny Kissin. The translated liner notes leave a lot to be desired, but the discs themselves are piano heaven.

MY SUGGESTION two weeks ago that superstar counter-tenor, Andreas Scholl, had been lured to Decca from Harmonia Mundi by filthy lucre has been greeted with outrage by his agent and recording manager. OK, OK ignoble insinuation, take it all back etc etc. But now I hear something even more deplorable. It seems the boy is not merely going to do crossover stuff, but will record at least one album, which is firmly on the other side of the divide. Let's rock with Scholl!

This is madness. He may be, as we discovered at Glyndebourne this summer, the most perfect singer of his breed, but he's still a one-hit wonder. Prudence should have dictated a consolidation period of at least two years, before he stakes all on what Decca sweetly terms "an exciting, long-range recording plan".



'What I see': the Chilean singer-songwriter Victor Jara, whose words and music so threatened Pinochet

## There's nowt so queer as our folk music

### ON THE AIR

THE WEEK ON RADIO REVIEWED BY ROBERT MAYCOCK

IMAGINE: A caravan rolls up in the town square and opens to disgorge a little concert platform. Out come an amplifier, a pair of loudspeakers and a grand piano. Soon a Prokofiev performance is in full swing – the locals look a touch nonplussed as they peer out of their windows.

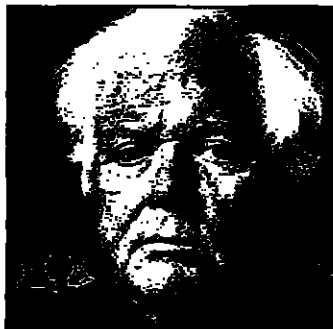
No dream, this. It was happening around the Languedoc-Roussillon region, the caravan bore the name of Radio France, and the Arte television channel carried a report about it. We claim in Britain to be serious about "audience development". Could you see the same thing

happening here? Either the project would be scuppered by hawkish purists who thought amplification destroyed the integrity of the music, or the townsfolk would be so patronised they'd leave the windows shut.

In another holiday encounter, a radio report investigated the new concert hall in Lucerne. State-of-the-art building work includes ready-made television facilities, so that broadcasters don't have to spend half the day setting up the basics. The hall has acoustic design by Russell Johnson, as in Birmingham's Symphony Hall – at least that's something we've got right.

Who paid? The city voted to provide half the cost, and now it gives free public transport to ticket-holders. This report was on the BBC World Service, so there is no excuse for ignorance. Future UK city mayors, please note. Which way the vote would go, of course, is another matter.

If we really were developing audiences, instead of planning to throw money into cheaper seats for people who already go, there might be grounds for hope. But a lot of us hate sharing privileges. Look at the rubbishing Ken Russell got for making popular films about classical composers. There he was again on Bank



Ken Russell Geraint Lewis  
Holiday Monday, safely hidden away in a late-night Channel 4 slot in case anybody got ideas. They would have, too, Ken.

Russell in *Search of the English Folk Song* was one of his quirky classics. If you survived the opening dream sequence, and Percy Grainger's orchestral version of "Brigg Fair", you will have decided that the mix included a dose of self-mockery.

Setting out like a collector of the early 20th century, he found a guitar band in his local Hampshire pub that writes its own songs. The leader's father, a devotee of Native Americans, is even more prolific and composes anti-redneck numbers, eg "You Don't Have to Join the Ku Klux Klan to be a Wizard Under the Sheets". "Haven't got anything a

bit more English around here, have you?" asked Russell.

But that was the point. On went the trail, to Bob Appleyard of Lymington who sang poetically about the Fawley oil refinery, to the derelict Greenham Common site where three veterans recalled their anti-missile lyrics, to June Tabor delivering a touching tale of a heroic pigeon-racer, to veterans Fairport Convention and Osibisa, to the creative Waterson/Carthy family, to Donovan still droning on about Nirvana, and to the dynamic Edward II fusing reggae with Celtic tunes. Russell's foibles faded away.

He slipped in his conclusions so deftly that you might have missed them, and left Ashley Hutchings of the Albion Band to say that the old function of folk song died before the television age. And now? "We English have always plundered other people's cultures," Russell summed up. "Maybe there's no such thing as an authentic English folk song."

But you didn't need to catch him saying so; the whole programme showed the land heaving with sincere, strong and sparky music in all sorts of guises. The spirit is alive and well – the substance has just grown a bit.

## Rostrum star rises

### PROMS

BRENDEL/HONECK:  
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Honeck's innate sense of timing was equally in evidence for at least part of Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony. The first movement was at its most impressive for the animated development section, though elsewhere the orchestra's lack of tonal weight – especially among the strings – proved something of a stumbling block.

The cheeky second movement emerged as pert, articulate and witty (no string problems here), its quacking brass trio accelerating slowly for a riotous coda. In the Adagio, you could visibly follow Honeck's good intentions, but again, the orchestra's pootled sonority fell somewhere short of the ideal. The finale, on the other hand, found the entire band giving their all. If Honeck could achieve these results for one concert, imagine what he could do in a whole season. And, with so many conductorships currently up for grabs worldwide, he deserves to be given a break. And so do we.

Webster and Prokofiev flanked a performance of

Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto, with Alfred Brendel as soloist; supple and contained for most of its course, though with a striking statement of the bigger and more harmonically adventurous of Beethoven's first-movement cadenzas.

After a typically well-judged opening solo, Honeck drew salient woodwind lines from the main tutti, then kept fully on the alert throughout a notably perceptive first movement. Terraced dynamics were in evidence virtually everywhere and, this time, the BBC strings surpassed themselves. The second movement's stern opening was properly con moto, terse and emphatic, so that Brendel's humble response was all the more affecting.

Only the finale seemed a little short on sparkle, but that may have been due to a mismatch between Honeck's clear-cut dynamism and Brendel's relative restraint. Whatever the ultimate verdict, I have a suspicion that, in years to come, when connoisseurs swap notes about Brendel's performances of Beethoven concertos, a knowing handful will cite the collaboration with Honeck as something rather special.

ROBERT COWAN

## Deutsche girl

### PROMS

MARIA FRIEDMAN  
BRECHT SETTINGS BY  
EISLER AND WEILL

IT'S EASY to deride classical music's obsession with anniversaries: "Who died 100 years ago? OK, let's play their music." Yet anniversaries can also cast new light on music we think we know, and illuminate music we don't know at all. Hanna Eisler was born in 1898, and his life embraced many of the contradictory possibilities facing the 20th-century composer: serialism, populism and communism; Weimar Germany, Hollywood and East Germany.

He studied with Schoenberg, collaborated with Brecht, got kicked out of the United States for "un-American activities": if not hidden from history, still a perfect candidate for a "centenary celebration".

Last Wednesday the Proms devoted most of a programme to his music, albeit in the late-night slot that almost confesses, "Sorry, this is a bit marginal." Nevertheless the turnout was good, perhaps because the singer originally advertised was Ute Lemper. In the event, Lemper's substitute was Maria Friedman, a different but no less forceful personality.

Conductor Robert Ziegler provided the Matrix Ensemble with arrangements of some of

Eisler's Brecht settings, as well as of four Weill songs, his instrumentation spiced with accordions and banjo, but tending to make Eisler sound like Weill, and vice-versa. Or perhaps that was Friedman's delivery (mixed for clarity). All texts were sung in English, a wise decision when first-rate translations, mostly by John Willett, are readily available. Friedman gave them her all. Not for her the ironic distancing that Brecht invites. Instead, she emitted the voice gravid with vibrato, arms spread to embrace the whole Albert Hall. In a word, she Sondheim'd.

Authenticity may be chimerical when it comes to singing Weill and Eisler, but Friedman sacrificed pungent tunefulness for the swallowed sob, the belaboured howl that are West End style. Still, she sang 'em like she meant 'em, and that counts for a lot. The evening's highlights, though, were elsewhere: Ziegler opened with Eisler's *Kleine Symphonie* (1932), full of ideas, from the elemental string

figures that provided the work's foundation, to the early vocal wa-wa trumpet and trombone of the third movement. Hardly less impressive was the suite Eisler made from his score for Viktor Trivas' 1931 film *Niemandsland* (No Man's Land), with sax, tuba and banjo bouncing tunes around with merry abandon.

If that had been all, it would have convinced us that we should hear more Eisler, but the performance of *Bilder aus der "Kriegesibel"* ("Pictures from the War Primer") was truly special. The texts (sung by the BBC Singers, Andrew Murray, Stuart Macintyre and Carolyn Foulkes) were four-line epigrams which Brecht wrote to accompany war photos clipped from picture-magazines, their bitterness all the more emphatic for being understated: "Those murky forces, woman, that torment you! All have a face, an address and a name."

Eisler's music matched them with a sparseness that was quite stunning: no excessive gestures, no decoration, absolute clarity of colour and line, an angry masterpiece superbly performed. Eisler's time may have come at last.

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## Rusalka

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Robert Palache, the lawyer with the wacky reputation, is changing jobs. By Linda Tsang

# And then he tipped ice over his head

The trouble is, law is a young person's profession - the hours means that it can be tough, both physically and mentally," admits the 40-year-old "showman" securitisation lawyer, Robert Palache, who is leaving London's largest law firm Clifford Chance - and the law - to become an investment banker with Japanese investment bank Nomura International. However, it is highly unlikely that the working culture there will be less stressful. He says: "I'm not leaving for the easy life - this will be a big, big challenge."

Apart from a stint with Citibank on secondment from Clifford Chance, Palache has been with one law firm for 18 years, and is acknowledged as a securitisation expert's expert. His move is unusual in that most lawyers who join the business world stay lawyers - this includes Clifford Chance's former managing partner, Geoffrey Howe, who is now in-house counsel at Robert Fleming. Palache explains that being a lawyer no longer means joining as a grey old man: "There are more moves out of law and also back in, which can only be a good thing for the profession and for business."

But there is probably also an element of fortysomething angst in Palache's decision. He says the offer from the headhunters to switch came at the right time.

His contemporaries and rivals see it as a logical move for him as he has "gone as far as he can or wants to go as a lawyer". He will be crossing the divide and will be in a position to pick and choose which law firms and lawyers Nomura will use.

Palache says that he has received congratulations from a number of other law firms, including a former colleague at the US firm, Weil Gotshal & Manges, but none from Freshfields or Allen & Overy - "I can only assume they are on holiday. And in the week when City law firm

Slaughter and May has been reported as being the most profitable law firm, I also received calls from two of its partners congratulating me - that was pretty quick off the mark."

He will not be drawn on the subject of the money he will be on at Nomura. But the move will mean a change both of culture and in the numbers of people he will be running. At Clifford Chance, he is managing 360 lawyers, as well as doing legal work, but at Nomura, where he will be a director and joint head of securitisations in the Principal Finance Group, he will head a group of 10. But as one current colleague comments: "He is leaving one big group of big fee earners to head a group of even bigger fee earners."

Palache's life has had its own share of challenges. His ancestors emigrated to England in the late 19th century, and he is the product of a Dutch Jewish father and an Eastern European mother. He was the first in his family to go to university and studied law at Magdalene College, Cambridge, before applying to a number of law firms in the City.

He remembers his first interview, where he sat on a stool at one end of the room, while "the first question which the three elderly gentlemen in large armchairs asked was 'what does your father do?'"

As Palache recalls, his father had just started driving a minibus because his restaurant had gone bust, so he just mumbled, guessing that this information was probably unlikely to impress the panel, or get him a job offer from the firm.

His next interview was at Coward Chance (which later merged with Clifford Turner to become Clifford Chance) where one of the interviewing panel was the partner who is now senior partner, Keith Clark. Palache says that the firm seemed much more light-hearted and less stuffy, so he cancelled the other appointments as soon as he got the job offer.

He qualified in 1981, and was



Showman Robert Palache looks forward to something completely different

Neville Elder

working in the area of finance where not just companies, but countries such as Rumania and Nigeria, had to have their debts reorganised - it was a matter of being in the right place at a very lucrative and creative time for lawyers and other professional advisers. Palache became a partner in 1988, rising to managing partner of the firm's finance practice in 1995.

But his steady rise at the firm did not prevent the growth of his "wacky" reputation. The showman is the legal equivalent of pulling a rabbit out of a hat. He is known for saving deals from disaster by wandering in at the last minute and coming up with a solu-

tion written on the back of an envelope. Another tale doing the rounds is when, with minutes to go to the closing of a multi-million deal, and no sign of the money being released, Palache poured an ice bucket over his head (which certainly stimulated the brain cells) scribbled an opinion on a fax, and that got the money moving immediately.

And as another former colleague, Allen & Overy partner Mark Raines, comments: "He is certainly larger than life, and if a firm the size and depth of Clifford Chance couldn't hold him, no law firm could. When lawyers get bored with doing deals, they generally go to a bank, and if you are going to a bank, then you

may as well go to one of the highest rollers."

When queried about being something of a showman, Palache says that it comes from developing communication skills to help people understand what is being said, and "make it a bit of fun, because it can be incredibly dull. It's important to remember that it is only business - it's not like being a nurse or doctor where someone may die - it is important to treat it with a sense of irony."

Palache will, however, admit that he gets the style of showmanship from Monty Python - which will no doubt prove useful now that he will be doing something completely different.

## Tourists seek sun and some easy money

Tour operators are facing an increasing number of compensation cases - but are they really justified? By Robert Verkaik

THE CRUCIAL question for many holidaymakers jetting home is not "when can I afford my next vacation", but "how much compensation will I get for this one?"

Lawyers advising package tour companies say that holiday claims are becoming increasingly trivial. Last week, a British tourist failed to win £3,000 in damages after he fell asleep before both legs of his journey, missing flights to and from Ibiza. In another case, a tourist took legal action when the air crew failed to serve him boiled sweets.

Leeds solicitor Stephen Mason, partner at holiday specialists Mason Bond in Leeds, and co-author of *Holiday Law*, lays the blame for this escalation in "silly claims" at the door of television consumer programmes.

He says programmes like the BBC's *Watchdog* have "gone completely over the top" in haranguing good companies and products. His comments are backed up by a judge, who a fortnight ago flew out to test a Malta package holiday which was the subject of a compensation claim. Judge Anthony Cleary said that he was "extremely unhappy" with *Watchdog*, which featured a special report about the holiday company.

Judge Cleary said that the programme was "one-sided", and "produced untested evidence" in a "kangaroo court".

Mason Bond, a firm of solicitors, recently represented a tour company which was being sued by a plaintiff who fell off a stage after he was hypnotised in a hotel in Majorca. Mr Mason explains: "The tour operator did not arrange the entertainment, nor advertise or promote it. That's an illustration of how tour operators are being asked to carry the can for all manner of things that happen on holiday."

The Brent County Court judge who heard the case in which the plaintiff fell asleep and missed both holiday flights said that a holiday package was a contract. If the company had a duty to provide an adequate holiday, then the consumer also had a duty to be at the airport to catch the right plane.

Peter Stewart, a partner in City law firm Field Fisher Waterhouse, represented the holiday company sued for the non-service of in-flight sweets. He argues that consumers now have a "much exaggerated

expectation" of what they can win from tour companies. Although the company won the "sweet case", which was dismissed by an arbitrator as "petty and trivial", the company still had to go to the expense of defending the case. The plaintiff had to pay just £40 to issue proceedings and then cover his own travelling expenses.

It has become easier for holidaymakers to sue tour companies. The Package Tour Regulations, which came into force in 1992, made the tour operator in Britain liable for the flight, the hotel and anything else included in the package. Before 1992, many potential litigants were discouraged from suing a foreign tour company or hotel owner, because of the expense and trouble in bringing a case abroad.

Lawyers point out that having a number of potential complainants all flying on the same aircraft, sleeping in the same building, and eating the same food, creates perfect conditions for litigation. A single holiday failing is often the subject of general conversation on the return flight and it doesn't take long for one person to introduce the issue of compensation. Stewart maintains that over the past three years complainants have become "vociferous". He says: "They are encouraging an aggression in the litigation which does not help to resolve matters."

Nevertheless, there are many genuine holiday claims which fail, because they either fall outside the remit of the Package Tour Regulations or are not recognised in the foreign holiday jurisdictions.

Now a European Commission directive is being considered which would ensure that every insurance company had a representative in EU countries. But, because there is no uniform set of rules, a group of personal injury lawyers have set up the Pan-European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers (PEOIL).

PEOIL member, John Price, a partner with Plymouth law firm, Bond Pearce, recently advised a Plymouth holidaymaker, who was a passenger in a car driven by an Italian in France, which was hit by another car driven by a Swiss national. This case, says Mr Price, highlights the potential legal minefield for those seeking compensation for accidents abroad.

### CLASSIFIED

#### Legal Notices



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL RAIL REGULATOR

The Railways Regulations 1998

International Licence Application by

Eurostar (U.K.) Limited

Company Registration Number: 2462001

Principal address of the applicant:

Eurostar House  
Waterloo Station  
London SE1 8SE

The International Rail Regulator hereby gives notice in accordance with Regulation 16(9) of the Railways Regulations 1998 that the applicant has made an application for an international licence for the operation of passenger trains. The applicant proposes to operate international passenger services between Great Britain and France and Great Britain and Belgium. Any person who wishes to make any representation with respect to the application should send such representation to:

Michael Ricketts  
Licensing and Consumer Protection,  
Passenger Services Group,  
Office of the International Rail Regulator,  
1 Waterhouse Square,  
138-142 Holborn, London EC1N 2ST  
not later than 23 September 1998

Dated 4 September 1998

John Swift QC

#### Charities

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Bordon, Hants. GU35 9JZ  
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#### Legal Notices

No. 004576 of 1998  
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE  
CHANCERY DIVISION  
COMPANIES COURT  
IN THE MATTER OF  
DRESDNER RCM  
EMERGING MARKETS  
TRUST PLC  
and  
IN THE MATTER OF THE  
COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 12th day of August 1998 presented to His Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share premium account of the above named company from £1,467,886 to £1,467,886 (being a reduction of £110,000).

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 3LL on Wednesday the 16th day of September 1998.

Any creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of the share premium account should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requesting the same by the under-mentioned Solicitors pursuant to the regulations made for the venue.

Dated this 11th day of September 1998  
Solicitors for the above named company  
ZOO TRADING LIMITED  
(in Liquidation)

Notice is hereby given that Michael Francis Stevenson of 21 Chippin Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 1BG was appointed Liquidator of the above company on 28th August 1998. A Liquidation Committee was not established.

Notice is also hereby given that the Creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before 30th October 1998 to send in their full names, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned, Michael Francis Stevenson of 21 Chippin Lane, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP1 1BG the Liquidator of the said Company and if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator are personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts and claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or as is directed thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated 28th August 1998  
M F STEVENSON, Liquidator

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## Racial dogma has no role in the adoption of children

THE HEADLINES which greeted the announcement last week by Paul Boateng MP amending the guidelines and criteria governing adoption have definitely been seen before.

In 1990, a similar announcement was made by the then Health minister, Virginia Bottomley. The changes that she announced were as a result of a highly publicised interracial adoption case that was heard at the end of 1989.

In that case I represented a white foster mother who wished to adopt the mixed race baby that she had fostered from six days of age. The relevant local authority refused to approve her as suitable because she was white.

After prolonged legal proceedings, the toddler was (at the age of 17 months) removed from her care and placed with a black family. At the hearing of that case it was common ground that my client had "cared admirably for the baby who was thriving in her care and he was attached to her and her family and she was the only mother that he had ever known".

It was made very plain to my client that she was not considered suitable to adopt the baby because she and her family were white. Although it was clear that the baby was very much a part of her family, she was offered little or no guidance from the social workers involved at that time, she

OUR LEARNED FRIEND



CHARLOTTE COLLIER

was simply considered unsuitable.

The same authority later refused to approve the adoptive placement of another black child with a white foster mother who had cared for him for a number of years. In that particular case the foster mother involved had actually already successfully adopted a black child who was a fully integrated member of her family. For the authority to then argue that she was unsuitable seemed to make little sense.

In 1990, Mrs Bottomley insisted that the welfare of a child must be paramount rather than any ideological argument. This seems to be close to what Mr Boateng MP restated last week.

Any child who cannot be brought up within their natural family needs to have parents who will be extra special. Parents who will help that child understand their past, love that child absolutely and

help them achieve their potential. When assessing potential adopters, social workers have a difficult task.

Children come into care at different ages and with different histories. Each child will have different needs. The needs of a five-year-old child abandoned by both parents will be different from the needs of the three-year-old who is not able to return home to a dangerous or unsafe household. Also, there is a growing number of children in care who have very particular medical needs or who are handicapped. These children can be difficult to place for adoption and often desperately need the love and security that such a placement can provide.

In trying to attract suitable families, local authorities need to look as widely as possible. Also, families keen to be approved for adoption will (entirely understandably) present themselves in the best light possible. Given the number of children who need families, any movement towards encouraging more families to offer themselves as carers for these children must be welcomed.

Adoption is for life and so the utmost care needs to be exercised by those preparing the guidelines for the selection of adopters and by those who implement the guidelines when they undertake the task of approving families for adoption. It seems to me

that this is where much of the difficulty is encountered. There are many accounts of prospective adopters who found the selection process bruising and insensitive.

Choosing adopters must be done with care and families should not be excluded on ideological grounds. Where so many children need the love and stability that only a family can provide, Mr Boateng's announcement is to be applauded.

However, adoption is a service for children and the welfare of the child must come first.

A child should be placed for adoption within a family that can meet all their needs. Usually - for African, Caribbean, French, Irish, or Scottish children, for instance - this means identifying an adoptive family which either shares the child's cultural and ethnic background or which has a lot of experience of such a background and is sensitive to it.

The new guidance to end automatic exclusion of some prospective adopters seems to be a move in the right direction. The 1990 guidance was felt to be the same.

What remains to be seen is how the guidance will be applied. The proof of the pudding will be in the number of new families approved for adoption and the number of adoption applications.

Charlotte Collier is a partner at Atkins Hope

0345 58 56 80











# FRIDAY RADIO

**Radio 1**  
(97.9-98.8MHz FM)  
6.30 Kevin Greening and Zoe Ball. 9.00 Simon Mayo. 12.00 Jo Whalley. 3.00 Dave Pearce. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection. 9.00 Judge Jules. 11.00 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show. 2.00 Fabio and Grooverider. 4.00 - 7.00 Emma B.

**Radio 2**  
(88-90.2MHz FM)  
6.00 Alex Lester. 7.30 Sarah Kennedy. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Ed Stewart. 5.05 John Dunn. 7.00 Friday Night is Music Night. See *Pick of the Day*. 8.30 The Blackpool illuminations. 9.30 Listen to the Band. 10.00 David Jacobs. 10.30 Sheridan Morley. 12.05 Charles Nova. 4.00 - 6.00 Jackie Bird.

**Radio 3**  
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)  
6.00 On Air.  
9.00 Masterworks.  
10.30 Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories.  
12.00 Proms Composers of the Week: Elsie and Well.  
1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 BBC Proms 98. (R)  
3.35 Beethoven Variations. 4.00 Voices and Viole. 4.45 Music Machine. (R)  
5.00 In Tune.  
7.00 BBC Proms 98.  
7.40 Tchaikovsky. Stephen Johnson reassesses Tchaikovsky's greatest symphonies in the light of new ideas about his life and a new understanding of late Russian. 8.00 Concert. part 2. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No 6 in B minor (Patetique). 9.30 Postscript. Five conversations in which Michael Billington talks to actors and singers about their experiences of playing the same character in theatrical and operatic productions. 5: Josephine Barrow and Katharine Schlesinger on Salome. (R)  
9.35 German Dances. Music by Mozart and Richard Strauss, including

## PICK OF THE DAY

JANE McDONALD (right), the unlikely star of the BBC's documentary *The Cruise*, in which she warbled in front of passengers and got married (aah), has made an album, which, unbelievably, succeeded in knocking the Beastie Boys off the pop chart's No 1 slot. She makes her radio debut tonight from Blackpool's Tower Circus in Friday Night is Music Night (7pm R2).

Sentimentality of a different sort features in David Hare's touching play *Saigon* - Year of the Cat (9pm R4), set in Vietnam in 1974. The war is ostensibly over, but the Americans are still present, and the mystery surrounding the fall of Saigon is echoed in a young Englishwoman's relationship with a CIA agent.

FIONA STURGES



the first waltz sequence from Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier* played by the Scottish National Orchestra, conducted by Neeme Jarvi. 10.00 BBC Proms 98. Live from the Royal Albert Hall, a late-night Prom of choral music from Britain, Hungary and Poland. Choristers of Guildford Cathedral, BBC Singers/Jane Glover. Britten: Voices for Today. Kodaly: Evening; Matra Pictures. Elgar: There is sweet music; The Fountain. Szymanowski: Kurpan Songs. Parry: Lord, let me know mine end (Songs of Farewell). 11.30 Swinging with Uncle Joe. 12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Stelios. (R)  
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

**Radio 4**  
(92.4-94.6MHz FM)  
6.00 Today.  
9.00 Desert Island Discs. 9.45 All Points North. 10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour. 11.00 NEWS; Chips and Chapatis. 11.30 Babblerwick Hall. 12.00 NEWS; You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 The Write Stuff. 2.00 NEWS; The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: Legal Affairs. (R)  
3.00 NEWS; Check Up. 3.30 The Lyrical Ballads. 3.45 Feedback.

4.00 NEWS; Open Book. 4.30 The Message. 5.00 PM. 5.57 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 The News Quiz. 7.00 NEWS; The Archers. 7.35 Front Row. What makes a writer tell off a successful character? Francine Stock investigates. 7.45 Dear Jayne Brown. 'Honest Men' by Valerie Georgeson. Charles Agnew is so widely hailed as an honourable man that Jayne regards it her solemn duty to unmask him. With Jill Balcon, Stella Gonnet and Hugh Fraser. Director Celia de Wolff (5/5). 8.00 NEWS; The Commission. Nick Ross invites a panel of public figures to hear expert evidence on an issue of current concern and reach practical conclusions to resolve the problem. 2: 'Homelessness'. With Professor Anthony King, John Edmonds and Lady Wernock. 8.45 Letter from America. Alistair Cooke with more Americans. 9.00 NEWS; Friday Play: Saigon - Year of the Cat. Adapted by James Friel from the TV play by David Hare. When the Americans withdraw from Vietnam, a group of foreigners is left behind to face invading troops. With Lindsay Duncan, Trevor Martin and Nick Waring. Director John Dove. See *Pick of the Day*. 10.00 The World Tonight. With

Robin Lustig. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: First Love. Ivan Turgenev's classic story of adolescent awakening, translated by Isaiah Berlin, read by Nigel Anthony, abridged by Doreen Estall (5/5). 11.00 Late Tackle. On the eve of the NatWest final, cricket-lover Barry Norman hosts an hour-long edition of the sports conversation programme. 12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: Tales from Ovid. (R)  
12.45 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 1.30 World News. 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 1.55 Inshore Forecast. 1.55 Prayer for the Day. 1.57 Leisure Update. 5.55 - 6.00 Weather.

**Radio 4 LW**  
(98kHz)  
9.45 - 10.00 An Act of Worship. 12.00 - 12.04 News Headlines: Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast.

**Radio 5 Live**  
(693, 909kHz MW)  
6.00 Breakfast Programme. 9.00 Nicky Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Oldroyd and Co. 4.00 Nationwide. 7.00 News Extra. 7.30 Alan Green's Sportsnight.

Alan Green introduces coverage of the night's live action, including Tranmere vs Bradford in Division One, Halifax vs Hartlepool in Division Two, and the latest from the US Open tennis at Flushing Meadows. Plus a look ahead to tomorrow's Euro 2000 qualifying games and to the NatWest Trophy final at Lord's. 10.00 Late Night Live. Insight and comment on the day's big issues with Brian Hayes. Including Papertalk, 10.30 sport round-up, 11.00 the late night news, and 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

**Classic FM**  
(100.0-101.9MHz FM)  
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Michael Mappin. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

**Virgin Radio**  
(125, 157-120kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)  
6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Bobby Hain. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Mark Forrest. 7.00 Johnny Boy's Wheels of Steel. 11.00 James Merritt. 2.00 - 6.00 Howard Pearce.

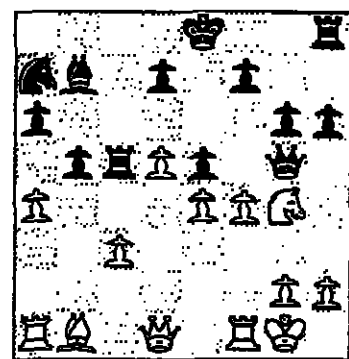
**World Service**  
(198kHz LW)  
6.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 From the Weeklies. 1.45 Britain Today. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Stories from the Afterlife. 2.45 Short Story. 3.00 Newsday. 3.30 Crime and Punishment. 4.00 World News. 4.05 World Business Report. 4.45 Sports Roundup. 4.30 Weekend. 5.00 Newsday. 5.30 Outlook. 5.55 - 6.00 Spotlight.

**Talk Radio**  
7.00 Bill Overton and Kirsty Young. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 11.00 Lorraine Kelly. 1.00 Anna Raeburn. 3.00 Tommy Boyd. 5.00 Peter Deeley. 7.00 Nick Abbot. 10.00 Mike Allen. 2.00 - 6.00 Mike Dickinson.

## INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

### CHESSE

JON SPEELMAN



THERE WERE a variety of events last Bank Holiday weekend, with hundreds of players across the country, including a gallery of the usual suspects in pursuit of lucre.

The 34th Berks and Bucks Congress had more than 100 players in eight graded sections. The Open was won by the Fide master M Simon Williams (Farnham) on 4/5. He was followed by 17-year-old JP Coulton and JH Hodgson (not grandmaster Julian Hodgson, but the man who sometimes mistakenly gets to share his international rating points) on 3.5. Williams was also victorious in the Lightning tournament.

More than 150 battled it out in Hereford. The Open section was won by the international master Matthew Turner with 4+, out of 5, ahead of Peter Varley and brothers Charles and James Cobb on 4.

But the biggest turn-out was in Chorley, the first event in the Northern Counties Chess Union Centenary year Grand Prix, where they just topped 200. Mike Surtrees (Bolton) caught up with Ben Hague (Rochdale) by beating him in the final round to share first in the Open on 5 out of 6. Third prize was shared between O Jackson (Cheshire), H Lamb (Bolton) and R Palliser (Hull) on 4+.

In his round four victory, the co-winner was White against a markedly higher-rated opponent. In an effort to sow confusion, Lund, who in any case has an eccentric opening repertoire, pushed his luck to the

limit and beyond. In the diagram, Black can't capture 20...exd4 in view of 21.Qd4 forking the two black rooks. The final position is total carnage. After 26...Kb8 27.Qd4 Nb8 28.Nxd7Bxd7 29.e6+ Kb7 30.exd7 would win even more material.

White: Ben Hague  
Black: Bret Lund  
Chorley, 1998

1 e4 c5	15 Ne2 Bc5
2 d4 e6	16 Ng4 Qg5
3 Nf3 a6	17 b4 cxb3
4 c3 b5	18 Nxb3 Rxb3?
5 Bb3 Bb7	19 Nxc5 Rxc5
6 0-0 Nf6	20 f4! see
7 Bg5 h6	diagram Qe7
8 Bxf6 Qxf6	21 fxe5 Rxc1
9 Nbd2 Qd8	22 d6 Qg5
10 a4 c4	23 Ba2 0-0
11 Bb1 Ne6	24 Bxc1 bxc1
12 d5 Na7?	25 Rb1 Bc6
13 Nd4 e5	26 Nf6+
14 Nf5 g5	Black resigned

jspeelman@compuserve.com

### BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

THE HURLY-BURLY of rubber bridge brings strange decisions and equally bizarre results. Consider this deal - South opened One No-trumps (12-14 points). West rather timidly passed (for, apparently, Two Clubs would have been conventional) and North bid Two Diamonds - a transfer to hearts. Making up for his partner's caution, East (who hates to be left out of any auction) doubled.

While this showed diamonds, this really seemed a futile gesture. With a passed partner he had little chance of buying the contract and he did not particularly want a diamond lead. South bid Two Hearts (promising at least three cards in the suit, as he would have passed with only two) and West bid Three Diamonds. North raised to Three Hearts and, after two passes, West went on to Four Diamonds. Now North, who had judged his hand to be worth about Three and a half Hearts, bid game and West (affronted) doubled.

After the lead of O K declarer had problems. What had West doubled on? High cards or a trump stack? How should the hearts be tackled? His eventual decision to lead low from hand and finesse 99 seemed to have worked badly when East won with

Love all; dealer South  
North  
♠ A J 3  
♥ A J 8 4 3  
♦ 7  
♣ K 8 3

West  
♠ 9 6  
♥ K 2  
♦ K Q 6 2  
♣ A Q 10 9 2

East  
♠ Q 10 8 2  
♥ Q 10  
♦ Q 10 8 4 3  
♣ 5

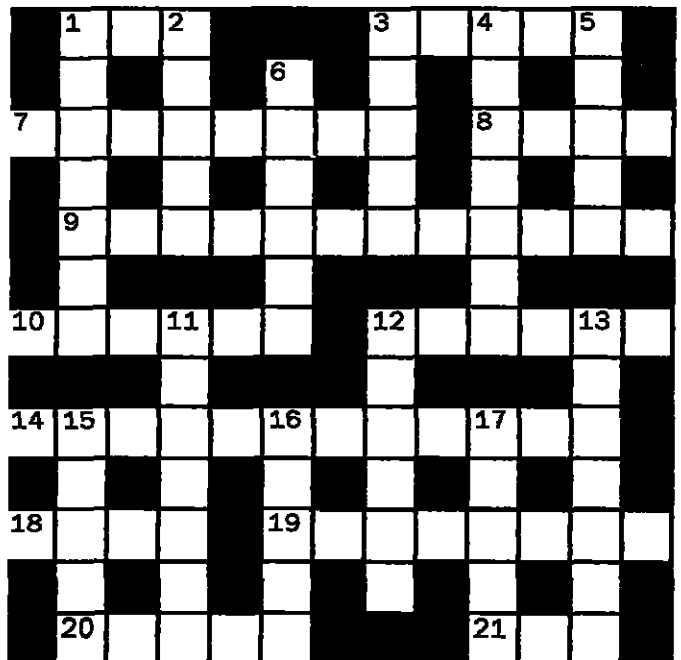
South  
♠ A K 7 5  
♥ 7 6 5  
♦ A 5  
♣ J 7 6 4

the 10. Why East did not return his singleton club at this point is a mystery (it would have led to immediate defeat) but, judging incorrectly that the defence needed tricks in spades, he switched disastrously to ♠ 2. Holding his breath, South let this run to dummy's jack and now, with ♠ K and ♠ Q falling together, he needed only to find West with ♠ A.

Now could South always have made his contract? I shall come back to this hand in a few days' time. Watch this space!

## CONCISE CROSSWORD

No. 3707 Friday 4 September



### ACROSS

- Football supporter (3)
- State of agitation (5)
- Break (8)
- Adjoin (4)
- Solving of scientific problem, e.g. (12)
- Self-centredness (6)
- Fate (6)
- Chinese dish (5-3-4)
- Italian currency (4)
- Pool of money (5)
- Raincoat (3)

### DOWN

- Aronist (7)
- Mother-of-pearl (5)
- Denition (3)
- Ardent (7)
- Youthful (5)
- Pretextuous rubbish (6)
- Imprecise (7)
- Abduct (6)
- Unpredictable (7)
- Beat eggs etc (5)
- Monastery (5)
- Rope fibres (5)

### Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Check, 4 Isis (Choo-ees), 5 Memento, 9 Drake, 10 Gear, 11 Clear-cut, 12 Individual, 15 Infected, 17 Epic, 20 Learn, 21 Balkan, 22 Rely, 23 Eases, DOWN: 1 Consumed, 2 Ours, 3 Knowledgeable, 4 Indiana, 5 Isaac, 6 Stump, 7 Secret, 12 Iscariot, 14 Impious, 16 Frame, 18 Rod, 19 Phis.

## SATELLITE AND CABLE

### PICK OF THE DAY

HELENA BONHAM CARTER (right) used to be seen as the queen of the corset, but her sharp performance in Woody Allen's *Mighty Aphrodite* (10.45pm Sky Movies Screen 1) did much to dispel that image. She plays a woman who, with her husband (Allen), decides to adopt a boy. As a Greek chorus tells us, things start to go wrong when she becomes interested in a smoothie work colleague (Peter Weller), and he gets embroiled

in trying to track down the boy's birth-mother. Believing him to be a genius, the Allen character is shocked to find out that the child's mother is in fact a hooker (Oscar-winning Mira Sorvino). *Adrenaline Rush Hour* (10pm Discovery) swims along beside a project that is attempting to protect sharks from human hunters and safeguard their essential role in the marine environment.

JAMES HAMPTON



ous World (203549), 8.00 Lonely Planet (726734), 8.00 Medical Detectives (80883), 8.30 Medical Detectives (80883), 9.00 Adrenaline Rush Hour (80883), 9.30 Pick of the Day (726734), 10.00 The Century of Warfare (726734), 10.30 Medical Detectives (80883), 11.00 Medical Detectives (80883), 11.30 Medical Detectives (80883), 12.00 Close.

**Sky 1**  
8.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills (80883), 8.30 Street Sharks (80883), 9.00 Gerbil and Friends (80883), 9.30 The Simpsons (80883), 10.00 Games World (80883), 10.30 Just Kidding (80883), 11.00 The New Adventures of Superman (80883), 11.30 Married with Children (80883), 12.00 M\*A\*S\*H (717523), 12.30 The Special K Collection (80883), 1.00 World Wrestling Federation (80883), 1.30 Super League (80883), 2.00 Super League (80883), 2.30 Super League (80883), 3.00 Super League (80883), 3.30 Super League (80883), 4.00 Super League (80883), 4.30 Super League (80883), 5.00 Super League (80883), 5.30 Super League (80883), 6.00 Super League (80883), 6.30 Super League (80883), 7.00 Super League (80883), 7.30 Super League (80883), 8.00 Super League (80883), 8.30 Super League (80883), 9.00 Super League (80883), 9.30 Super League (80883), 10.00 Super League (80883), 10.30 Super League (80883), 11.00 Super League (80883), 11.30 Super League (80883), 12.00 Super League (80883), 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Super League (80883), 4.0

